

JPRS-LAM-87-037

11 MAY 1987

Latin America Report

SPECIAL NOTICE INSIDE

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11 MAY 1987

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REPORTAGE ON CELAM CONFERENCE IN ASUNCION

Church Role in Changing World

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 10 Mar 87 p B-5

[Text] Asuncion, 9 Mar (Reuter)--Some 60 bishops, archbishops, and cardinals who make up CELAM [Latin American Bishops Conference] began meeting today. Ismael Rolon, archbishop of Asuncion, said at the opening that the objective was to "clarify the role of the church in a changing world that presents varied challenges."

Rolon welcomed the Latin American prelates who are meeting in Ypacarai 35 kilometers south of Asuncion. He said: "We are here to illuminate the concrete reality of man in our hemisphere."

Until Saturday

One of the objectives of the meeting that will last until Saturday is to amend the statutes and "review the steps taken in the last 4 years," according to Juan Francisco Fresno, cardinal of Santiago, Chile.

CELAM is a group of Latin American prelates who meet to analyze different topics of the current political, social, and religious situation of the continent.

Vicente Hernandez, bishop of Trujillo, Peru, said that CELAM will analyze the problems of youth, "beset by modern life, drug addiction, alcoholism, sexual promiscuity, and the frustration of many hopes."

The proliferation of Protestant sects will be discussed by Monsignor Freniat Torres of Puerto Rico. The church there is concerned about this trend.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo of Nicaragua was the prelate most besieged by the press. It wanted to ask him about relations between the church and the Sandinists.

Obando y Bravo said: "I cannot discuss this because the church is about to begin dialogue with the Sandinist Government."

Protestant Phenomenon in Latin America

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p B-2

[Text] Asuncion, 12 Mar (Reuter)--The Latin American bishops criticized the industrialized countries and the regional dictatorships for the support they offer Protestant sects. Monsignor Antonio Quarracino, president of CELAM, told journalists this today.

Quarracino added: "The sects confuse the people of our hemisphere which is traditionally Catholic. This causes many problems and serious harm."

He said that this was the main topic discussed last night at the 21st CELAM Assembly that is being held in Ypacarai 35 kilometers south of Asuncion. About 60 bishops, archbishops, and cardinals are participating.

However, the prelates also criticized the appearance in Nicaragua of the so-called popular church which they feel is estranged from the legitimate ecclesiastical hierarchy.

The Argentine prelate added: "The phenomenon of these sects in Latin America not only persists but seems to gain strength."

Quarracino said that the sects "come from the northern part of the continent or from the east." They receive economical support from the industrialized nations.

"The dictatorships also support the sects because they are not concerned about what we call temporal realities and because they are based on the idea of escaping the world."

He indicated: "This is to combat the (Catholic) Church which has already opted for the poor and the downtrodden and fights to emancipate them."

7717

CSO: 3348/242

TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ON GUYANA PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA

Emphasis on Cooperation

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Mar 87 pp 1, 5

[Text]

Guyana and Venezuela are to establish a Guyana-Venezuela Commission for Economic, Cultural and Technical Co-operation to strengthen bilateral co-operation and put it on a "rational and structured basis."

The decision to set up the Joint Commission is one of the highlights of a communique issued in Caracas Friday at the end of a successful four-day visit to the neighbouring republic by President Desmond Hoyte.

Cde Hoyte and President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela, in a "relaxed and cordial atmosphere", discussed various political, economic and other issues. Both expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the visit and President Lusinchi accepted an invitation from President Hoyte to visit Guyana, the communique stated.

The visit by President Lusinchi is to take place at a mutually convenient date.

Among matters covered in the final communique are the review by the leaders of the current status of the mission entrusted to the UN Secretary General in relation to the Guyana-Venezuela controversy, the further development of economic and technical co-operation, the dropping of some visa

requirements between the two countries, and regional and international economic and political issues of interest to the two countries.

The text of the communique is as follows:

Responding to an invitation extended by the President of the Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Jaime Lusinchi, the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte paid a State visit to Venezuela from March 24 to 28, 1987.

President Hoyte's party included their Excellencies Vice-President Mohamed Shahabuddeen; Rashleigh Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Cedric Joseph, Head of the Presidential Secretariat; Noel Sinclair, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cecil Rajana, Head of the Department of International Economic Co-operation in the Office of the President and Marilyn C. Miles, Ambassador of Guyana to Venezuela.

On the first day of his stay, President Hugh Desmond Hoyte visited the National Pantheon, where he paid a floral tribute at the resting place of the Liberator Simon Bolivar.

In addition the Guyanese President paid a courtesy

visit to the Sovereign Congress of the Republic, where he was received by its President, Senator Reinaldo Leandro Mora, and its Vice-President, Deputy Jose Rodriguez Iturbe.

The illustrious visitor was host to Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, former President of the Republic of Venezuela, who paid him a courtesy call. He also received the Presidents and Secretaries General of Accion Democratica and COPEI, respectively.

President Hoyte also took the opportunity of his visit to formally open an exhibition of Guyanese art in the new premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Caracas.

In a relaxed and cordial atmosphere the two Presidents reviewed the relations between the two countries and exchanged views on a wide range of global and regional issues of mutual interest, with special emphasis on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The two Heads of State examined the issue of the controversy between their countries, and pointed out that the climate of friendship and understanding that exists between Guyana and Venezuela is favourable for dealing with this fundamental aspect of the bilateral

relations with flexibility and goodwill.

They reviewed the current status of the mission entrusted to the Secretary General of the United Nations, in keeping with Article IV, paragraph 2, of the Geneva Agreement.

While thanking Doctor Javier Perez de Cuellar for efforts he has undertaken, the two Presidents reiterated their determination to continue to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the selection of a means of solution.

The two Presidents took note, with satisfaction, of the positive manner in which relations between their countries have been developing in recent years, following the agreements reached during the visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela to Guyana in February 1985. These relations were characterised by amicable and fruitful bilateral exchanges and practical co-operation.

In this context they recalled, in particular, the arrangements made in April 1986 for the supply of petroleum products and bauxite and the establishment of a financing scheme designed to facilitate these exchanges. Both Presidents expressed their deepest satisfaction with the extension of the agreement for the supply of petroleum products until December 31 of the current year as well as the related financing arrangements. At the same time, following conversations held among the technical agencies of both countries, it was agreed to establish an important line of credit, granted by FINEX-O, in favour of Guyana.

The two Presidents, likewise expressed their satisfaction with the conversations which took place between the Bauxite Industry Development Company of Guyana and a private Venezuelan Company, with a view to establishing a joint venture for Guyana's bauxite mining operation. The two Presidents also expressed satisfaction at the

development of co-operation in the areas of education and training, health and scientific research and between the private sectors of their countries. They expressed their determination to intensify their co-operation in all these areas and to explore the possibilities of co-operation in others.

In this spirit and conscious of the importance of cultural activities as a means of bringing peoples closer together they decided, taking into consideration the Cultural Agreement signed in 1974 between Venezuela and Guyana, to proceed to elaborate as early as possible, a cultural exchange programme, to be implemented in the second half of the present year.

The two Presidents decided to establish a mechanism of co-ordination, consultation and evaluation, entitled the Guyana-Venezuela Commission for economic, cultural and technical co-operation, in order to strengthen their bilateral co-operation and to place its development on a rational and structured basis.

In keeping with the existing spirit of friendly co-operation, and inspired by their common desire to further stimulate the development of relations between their two countries an agreement abolishing visa requirements for persons holding diplomatic, official, special and service passport travelling to each other's country was concluded.

Concerned at the far reaching problems created by the consumption and illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs an agreement relating to the prevention and control of the consumption of and illegal trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances was also signed.

In their review of the international situation the two Presidents reaffirmed the commitment of their States to the Charter of the United Nations, to the pursuit of peace, genuine and complete disarmament, respect for the right of self-determination

and for national independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and the right of States to pursue their own forms of political, economic and social organisation.

They also reiterated their condemnation of the hateful system of apartheid and the need for the intensification of international pressure to assist in the dismantling of this system. With regard to Namibia they called for the early implementation of Security Council Resolution 435(1978).

The two Presidents expressed especial concern over current developments in the international economic situation, with particular regard to their adverse effects on the economies of their respective countries and those of other developing countries, exemplified in the problem of external debt, and growing protectionism by some developed countries. In this connection they stressed the benefits that could accrue from South-South Co-operation and pointed to the current state of economic relations between their two countries as an example of the potential which lay in this direction.

Examining the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean the two Presidents took note with satisfaction of the strengthening of the democratic process within the region. They also expressed support for the efforts of the States of the region to safeguard national independence and to achieve higher levels of economic and social development.

The two Presidents expressed grave concern over the situation in Central America. They expressed their profound conviction that it is only through diplomatic negotiations and the strengthening of democratic institutions that the problems of the region could be overcome. In that context, they reiterated the importance of the work of the Contadora and its support group as an authentic Latin American

initiative to achieve peace and understanding in the area.

Turning to the Caribbean, the two Presidents noted with satisfaction the coincidence of opinion on the need to promote a greater exchange among Caribbean countries, based upon solidarity, mutual respect and co-operation in areas of common interest.

At the conclusion of their talks, which took place in an atmosphere of amity and understanding, the two Presidents voiced their satisfaction with the outcome of the visit.

At the end of his visit His Excellency, Hugh Desmond

Hoyte expressed his deep appreciation to His Excellency, Dr. Jaime Lusinchi, the Government and people of the Republic of Venezuela for the warm welcome and hospitality which he and his delegation received during the visit.

His Excellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte extended an invitation to His Excellency Jaime Lusinchi to pay a State visit to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the visit would take place at a mutually convenient time.

Caracas,
March 27, 1987.

Credit Agreement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 87 p 4

[Text]

GUYANA and Venezuela last Thursday signed an agreement under which Guyana will be provided with a new Venezuelan Line of Credit involving about \$15 million [US].

The funds will be used to finance exports of Venezuelan goods and services to Guyana. The agreement will run for 10 years and will have a maximum interest rate of seven per cent.

Another feature of the agreement is that it will cover the exports of all Venezuelan goods and services except those

considered "traditional" such as petroleum, steel, iron, cacao, and coffee.

Signing of the agreement coincided with the four-day official visit to Venezuela by President Desmond Hoyte. And, signing the agreement for Guyana was Cde. Ivan Hamilton, Banking Manager of the Bank of Guyana. The President of the Venezuelan Fund for Financing Exports (FINEXPO) Senor Policarpo Martinez signed for Venezuela.

/9274

CSO: 3298/190

ST VINCENT FINES GUYANESE CAPTAIN, TAKES SUGAR CARGO

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent and The Grenadines: (CANAL)--A Magistrate's Court in St Vincent and The Grenadines has ordered the forfeiture of a 207-ton Danish registered cargo

vessel and fined its Guyanese captain a total of \$1800(US) (one EC dollar--37 cents US) for breaches of St Vincent and The Grenadines Customs regulations.

The Ulla Dorte has been forfeited to the State and its master Prame Daarath fined \$400(US) each on two counts of making false declarations to Customs and breaking Customs seal to permit the removal of sugar, and \$1000(US) on a third charge of answering questions falsely.

A fourth charge of off-loading the sugar without authority was dismissed on a no-case submission by Daarath's lawyer.

Customs claimed that they found approximately 300 100-pound bags of sugar in the forepeak of the vessel and a further 12 bags

in the stern, after the captain's declaration had indicated that the vessel contained only 40 tons of lumber.

The Customs and Coast Guard officials who boarded the vessel at anchor in the stream, told the Magistrate's Court that the hatch with the 300 bags of sugar was sealed and the captain ordered to bring the vessel alongside the pier to off-load the sugar, but that when they went to off-load the sugar the following day, the seal was broken and the sugar had disappeared.

Captain Daarath denied that he had 300 bags of sugar on board. He told the Court he had only about six bags of sugar in the ship's storeroom.

There were six other Guyanese men on board the ship, but they were not charged.

/9274

CSO: 3298/190

RUMORS OF IMPENDING MILITARY PARDON CIRCULATE

PA160337 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Although Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's closest aides have said that the report has absolutely no basis in reality, the truth is that rumors about a possible pardon for the members of the Armed Forces involved in crimes against humanity are growing daily. This touchy matter is stirring public opinion in Argentina, particularly since emphasis was given to a report circulated during the early days of the Radical administration to the effect that the most obscure, painful, and bloody period in Argentina's history would be ended once and for all.

Recently, when questioned by the press, Argentina Vice President Victor Martinez refused to confirm or deny the existence of a plan of this nature. He said only that this is a function of the executive branch and that it has been exercised on previous occasions during the country's history. Martinez recalled that some of the provincial administrations have applied the pardon to common crimes of all sorts.

Nobody doubts that granting amnesty to the military men currently on trial would entail a high political cost [word indistinct] various Armed Forces offices have set the rumor mill into motion, justifying the so-called struggle against subversion and demanding amnesty. In a speech he delivered a short time ago in Cordoba Province, President Alfonsin referred to officers who fulfilled orders under such circumstances, saying that they practically represented coercion. Certain sectors saw the statement as a sort of presidential advance notice of an impending pardon or amnesty. In any event, the plan would not be easy to implement. Article 86 of the Argentine Constitution empowers the president of the nation to pardon or to commute sentences subject to a report to the respective court and approval by the Chamber of Deputies. Also, it would be advisable to bear in mind that the orders to prosecute Armed Forces officers issued by the federal chambers were not based on political reasons but on the commission of atrocious and aberrant common crimes under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

In reality, the recent attacks and the wave of rumors about a probable amnesty form part of the attempts by certain Argentine military sectors to prevent their colleagues from being prosecuted and convicted. Up to this moment the

administration headed by Raul Alfonsin is conscious of the fact that an amnesty or pardon would entail an unthinkable political cost to the country but that, fundamentally, it would open the door to a new wave of indiscriminate violence like the one the Argentine people have been unable to forget.

/12913

CSO: 3348/277

CRESPO INTERVIEWED ON MILITARY CRISIS

PY190515 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0400 GMT
19 Apr 87

[Interview with Argentine Air Force Chief of Staff General Ernesto Crespo by unidentified reporters as he steps out of meeting with president at Government House--during first part of interview video shows a crowd of reporters and only crespo's voice is heard. During the second party of the interview, camera focuses on Crespo--in the background crowd in Plaza de Mayo can be heard chanting pro-government slogans--live]

[Text] [Crespo] Yes.

[Question indistinct]

[Crespo] The president called me. I met with him for a few minutes. I had to wait a few minutes before he could not meet me because he was busy. That is all.

[Reporter] What did you discuss at the meeting?

[Crespo] Well, we touched a little on the present situation; we also discussed issues pertaining to the Air Force, and we also discussed the future.

[Reporter] Did you talk about the Army?

[Crespo] I do not believe it is proper for me to discuss Army issues. That is up to General Rios Erenu. I can only discuss Air Force issues.

[Reporter] General, how do you view the Campo de Mayo conflict at present?

[Crespo] I would not refer to it as a conflict. I would say that there is a sector that has its motives, and that paths have been found to achieve a solution. That is all.

[Reporter] (?What efforts are being made) to find a solution to the problem?

[Crespo] There are always solutions that can be found to all problems.

[Reporter] Are you acting as a mediator in this issue?

[Crespo] I cannot say that I am acting as a mediator because I belong to another branch of the Armed Forces, and, therefore, it is not fitting for me to mediate, but if I had to, I would be more than pleased to do it.

[Reporter] (?What are the solutions you are) alluding to?

[Crespo] Well, you would have to ask the president and not me about these solutions because this is his responsibility. What I am saying is that there are paths to achieve a solution, and I hope we shall be able to achieve a solution as soon as possible because the country is presenting a bad image, especially at the international level, which we thought we had overcome.

[Reporter] Have you placed yourself at the orders of the president?

[Crespo] Have you any doubts about it? [laughs]

[Reporter] Based on your experience, which do you believe are the paths that may lead to a solution?

[Crespo] I believe that the main thing is to comply with the president's orders.

[Reporter] Is this the only [word indistinct]

[Crespo] Without any doubt, it is the only alternative. If we want to be a nation, there are regulations and laws which state that the president is the top national authority, and that in addition he is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces must respect their superiors. This is how they express their loyalty, their subordination, and their discipline. This is what compels us to respect this structure, otherwise we would be having popular militias, which are guided by even stricter regulations than those that guide us; and/or armed gangs and this would be disastrous.

[Reporter] Senator Gass has said that there is an apparent division between the general command and mid-level ranks...

[Crespo interrupting] That is the senator's opinion. I would not dare to comment on what is happening within the Army because to do so would be presumptuous, and it would not look good.

[Reporter] Thank you very much general.

[Video shows reporters intercepting General Crespo before he can leave Government House]

[Reporter] Brigadier Crespo was going to leave, but we have agreed to be more restrained so we can talk with you, General Crespo. We are all experiencing hours of anxiousness, and thus, we journalists sometimes exaggerate a little, and exert too much pressure on officials, right fellow reporter?

[Reporter] Yes, that is correct.

[Reporter] Let us behave more appropriately. How is the situation? Why are you here at the Government House?

[Crespo] As you know, the president calls the chiefs-of-staff every once in a while to impart orders as the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. We depend on him, directly. Regarding administrative matters, we receive instructions from the defense minister, because otherwise, the president would not be able to look after the national affairs. Therefore, he called me to discuss the current situation. The situation is critical and the president is extremely concerned. There has been a split in some sectors of society. The difficulties are increasing, as you must have heard. And it is regrettable that it occurs now, when it appeared that we had again found the correct path. Consequently, the president is trying to obtain data to help him make decisions. He has very firm beliefs, and is exerting his authority. That is all. There is nothing more to it.

[Reporter] As a military man, do you see any solution for the Campo de Mayo conflict?

[Crespo] Yes, of course there will be a solution.

[Reporter] Is it imminent?

[Crespo] Yes, I would say that it will be put into effect faster than you expect.

[Reporter] Some minutes ago, we were talking to Tourism Secretary Francisco Manrique, and he said something very similar. He said that there was already a solution to the problem, and that he was very optimistic about it.

[Crespo] I am tremendously optimistic, and this is a result of my profession. If I were not optimistic, I would not belong to the Air Force. I believe in a solution, I believe in the integrity of the Armed Forces members, I believe these things because otherwise, we would not be able to face tomorrow, to watch the sun rise every morning. Above all, you must believe that there is a solution, that it will be found, and that it would be better to again seek an agreement among all the sectors of society, so that the country can attain its full development.

[Reporter] Can we say that you are acting as a mediator, General?

[Crespo] I have just said that I am not mediating.

[Reporter] You are at least contacting people.

[Crespo] I contact members of the Army, of the Navy, I contact politicians, but that is not to act as mediator, that is to have contact with people, to get to know them, and to attempt to find solutions, but not to act as mediator.

[Reporter] You are trying to bring the people together?

[Crespo] As much as possible.

[Reporter] Very well.

[Reporter] Well, I believe that all has been said.

[Reporter] I want to ask a question. People in the streets and journalists themselves are wondering whether the Armed Forces will be able to thwart any attempted subversion.

[Crespo] I won't say no. [sentence as heard] No one is attempting to subvert the institutional order. It is more of a problem of again placing the country in a catastrophic situation, as they have been doing occasionally since 1930. To have coups again would be terrible. What I believe is that there are some sectors which have not adjusted to a certain situation, and all we can do is to start from the beginning again. This is not an attempt to subvert the order. These rebels are probably not seeing things from a political point of view. They are probably seeing them from a neatly military point of view. Thus, they do not realize how much damage they are doing to society and to the country itself. This, however, does not mean that they are attempting to subvert order. I assure you, and give you my word of honor that the rebels are not attempting to upset the constitutional order. That is all. That much I can assure you.

[Reporter] In conclusion, you believe that a solution will be found in the next few hours?

[Crespo] Yes, I do.

[Reporter] Thank you, General very kind of you. As you can see, Gen Crespo is leaving the room.

/12913

CSO: 3348/277

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION PARTIES SCORE RALLY--Buenos Aires, 16 April (TELAM)--The Argentine Workers Party (PO) and Maria Julia Alsogaray, national deputy for the Democratic Centrist Union (UCEDE-Metropolitan district), today stated their opposition to the rally in front of Congress that various national organizations called for this afternoon. According to a PO communique, the rally is not directed at smashing the military uprising but at disguising the smoothing of ruffled feathers and negotiations that the national government, the Army chief-of-staff, and the commanders of the III Corps have embarked on to guarantee impunity. Meanwhile, Deputy Maria Julia Alsogaray questioned the rally, which is allegedly called to defend democracy, and stated that the government is upsetting the people through the official media. She added that rallying the population over 1 mayor and 15 officers who have rebelled is not acting responsibly, and indicated that it is up to the president of the nation to resolve the conflict through the appropriate institutional channels.

[Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2343 GMT 16 Apr 87 PY] /12913

CSO: 3348/277

HAVANA RADIO: BOLIVIAN LABOR GROUP CARRIES OUT MARCH

PA160409 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Apr 87

["Focus" feature, by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] Preceded by large miner mobilization, demands that the president of the country resign, and the government's refusal to grant significant wage increases, a protest march organized by the COB, Bolivian Labor Federation, was carried out on Tuesday as planned.

Last week and despite protests against its decision the government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro sent the Congress the nation's draft budget, which included a meager wage increase that was rejected by workers.

As expected, the Bolivian Congress approved the budget Monday evening a few hours before the protest march was scheduled to start, which involved approximately 10,000 people in La Paz alone.

In the tense atmosphere preceding the march, various opposition forces accused the government of setting the stage for a state siege. Everything seems to indicate that a dynamite attack against the U.S. Embassy in La Paz constituted a provocation aimed at discrediting the spirit of the labor struggle and justifying the implementation of repressive measures.

COB Secretary General Walter Delgadillo confirmed this. He explained that the explosive device was dropped from the embassy's roof and not hurled by demonstrators, as the authorities reported.

Provocations aside, the Bolivian Government reaffirmed that it will maintain its economic program while the COB reported that this Tuesday's march was the first step in a struggle against the official economic policy, which has plunged workers into hunger, destitution, and unemployment.

There is no doubt that the Bolivian working class is facing a desperate situation. They are the victims of a restrictive policy imposed by the government with the alleged objective of controlling inflation and stabilizing the economy.

At any rate and despite government threats, the COB announced new forceful measures to defend its members' rights.

/12913

CSO: 3348/272

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

BEDREGAL DENIES OFFER--La Paz, 16 April (EFE)--Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal today denied that Bolivia has offered to divert several Bolivian rivers in order to irrigate the northern part of Chile as part of a plan of non-territorial compensations in exchange for a sovereign outlet on the Pacific. The Chilean daily LA EPOCA published this report which was made known here yesterday prompting a categorical denial from Bedregal who stated that "we have not committed ourselves to anything yet because we have not begun negotiating." Bedregal also said that his meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle scheduled for 21 April in Montevideo, will be a "politico-diplomatic" encounter. He reiterated that Bolivia's strategy does not include territorial compensations but merely certain options to stimulate trade and bilateral integration. Bedregal did not explain the nature of Bolivian proposals which have been studied by the executive branch, congress, the Armed Forces and political figures. Bedregal, who will be leaving for Montevideo on Sunday, 19 April, stated that "we do not delude ourselves, but we will tackle this task (the negotiation for a sea outlet) with the utmost good faith. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0723 GMT 16 Apr 87 PY] /12913

NEW AIR FORCE UNIT CREATED--Air Force Chief of Staff General Guillermo Escobar Urhy presided over the ceremony creating the Colonel Emilio Arabe Claire Artillery and Antiair Defense Group No. 93 in Santa Cruz Department. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Mar 87 p 7 PY] /12913

NEW TAXES IN FORCE--The new Law of Tax Reform went into effect throughout the country as of yesterday. The tax reform created six new taxes including a Value Added Tax, new income taxes on commercial companies and on transactions. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 3 Apr 87 p 3 PY] /12913

DEBT COMMISSION DISSOLVED--Foreign Minister Juan Cariaga has said that the Foreign Debt Executive Committee was dissolved on 31 March and that its functions will be handled by a negotiating committee made up of the Foreign Ministry and Finance Ministry undersecretaries, and an executive secretary. This commission will be under the supervision of the Bolivian Central Bank. [Excerpt] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Apr 87 p 1 PY]] /12913

GAS, TIN PRICES DROP--La Paz, 6 April (EFE)--Bolivia's export sales revenue dropped by \$369 million during 1986 as a result of the drop in the prices of

tin and gas, according to a report from the Economic Policies and Analysis Office [Unidad de Analisis y Politicas Economicas] of the Planning Ministry. Bolivia earned \$500 million from exports during 1986. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2237 GMT 6 Apr 87 PY] /12913

CSO: 3348/272

SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPBUILDER EXPANDS CONTRACTS

Johannesburg FINANCIAL MAIL in English 20 Mar 87 p 87

[Excerpt]

Sandock-Austral (S-A), Gencor's low-profile heavy engineering and shipbuilding arm, is flexing its muscle in world markets.

After winning a US\$13m tender against international competition to build a shipyard at Punta Arenas, southern Chile, two and a half years ago, S-A entered into a 50-50 arrangement with Asmar, the Chilean navy's ship repairer. The jointly owned company is now operating the Strait of Magellan Shipyard.

Prospects for the new venture, situated on the main sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, are good, says Pierre de Villiers, S-A MD and first chairman of the joint company.

"The nearest shipyard to service the ever-increasing flow of shipping traffic," he says, "is nearly 1 500 km away at Talcahuano on the Pacific coast of South America. On the Atlantic coast, the nearest yard is even further away — at Montevideo."

He points out that the industry is currently being boosted by the trend to ship refurbishing to avoid heavy capital outlay on replacement.

Also, the new ship repair facility lies in an area where mineral resources are being exploited and which is becoming increasingly important for the fishing industry.

The shipyard, now ready to receive its first vessel, consists of a marine railway drydocking system which retrieves vessels from the sea and then refloats them when repairs have been completed.

De Villiers is particularly proud of the fact that the entire project was managed by S-A. "Crandall of the US was our design consultant. But all the steel for the project came from SA; it was fabricated at our Durban shipyard and, together with our partner Asmar, we installed it on site at Punta Arenas. Now we are into the physical operation of the shipyard."

Encouraged by the success of the venture, S-A is now looking for new joint ventures overseas. The company always had a fairly sizeable stake in the export field through its involvement with Armscor and its expertise as a manufacturer of combat vehicles, but it has never publicised its activities.

/9317

CSO: 3300/12

JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WITH CUBA STRESSES COOPERATION

Areas of Discussion

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Twelfth Session of the Guyana/Cuba Joint Commission will be held in Georgetown from tomorrow to Wednesday next. The Cuban delegation will be led by Comrade Erneste Milandes Bachs, Minister for the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. Guyana's delegation will be headed by Comrade Winston Murray, C. C. H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism.

Discussions will focus on the following areas:--

- Expansion of Trade;
- Scientific and Technical Cooperation;
- Education and Cultural Cooperation; and
- Industrial and Economic Cooperation.

In the area of trade expansion, it is expected that a Barter Protocol will be signed. This protocol should make provision for the importation of basic commodities such as salt, cement, detergents and automotive batteries from Cuba during 1987. On the other hand, Guyana should export increased quantities of rice.

In the field of Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Guyana will seek to strengthen ties in the areas of agriculture, public health, education, food, drug and tableware manufacture.

In respect of Education and Cultural Cooperation, discussions will centre on the exchange of groups, individuals and information in the area of sports, the performing arts, and academic research in Guyanese, Cuban and West Indian history literature, culture and art.

Regarding Industrial and Economic Cooperation, discussions will hinge on the development of mechanisms for implementing new joint projects in the agriculture and mining sectors.

Cooperation Agreements

FL301523 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Caracas, 28 Mar (CANA-REUTER)--Guyana President Desmond Hoyte has said that his country's border dispute with Venezuela should not be an obstacle to their bilateral relations, adding that progress has been made on the issue over the past year.

At the end of a four-day visit here, Hoyte told a news conference he and President Jaime Lusinchi agreed to increase direct contacts to resolve the controversy over the mineral-rich Essequibo region, which Venezuela claims.

President Lusinchi and I have agreed that the existence of this matter should not be a barrier for cooperation between our two countries, he said yesterday.

Hoyte told reporters the growing economic and political ties between Venezuela and Guyana can themselves create a favorable climate to help resolve the dispute. Hoyte spoke shortly after the signing of three bilateral accords between the two nations.

One agreement creates a joint committee for economic, technical and cultural cooperation, charged with identifying new areas of exchange.

Another commits the two nations to cooperate in fighting narcotics trafficking and abuse, and to mutual aid in drug rehabilitation programs.

A third agreement, eliminating the need for visas in diplomatic passports, was signed by Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi of Venezuela and his counterpart, Rashleigh Jackson.

/9274

CSO: 3298/191

AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH VENEZUELA DURING HOYTE VISIT

Hoyte Call to Investors

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] President Desmond Hoyte has assured members of Venezuela's umbrella body of commercial and business officials (Fedecamaras) that overseas investors in Guyana will be allowed to repatriate profits from their investments.

He also assured them of the Guyana Government's willingness to grant tax holidays and concessions for the duty free importation of capital goods and maintenance equipment.

President Hoyte was speaking at a luncheon he hosted Wednesday at La Vineta for representatives of Fedecamaras. Among those present at the luncheon was Senor Rafael Garmendia, President of Fedecamaras.

Cde Hoyte spoke about Guyana's vast but virtually untapped resources in the areas of agriculture, forestry, mining, and fishing and about the need for investments in these areas if Guyana is to be developed.

Cde Hoyte invited members of Fedecamaras to visit Guyana and added: "We are open to all forms of investment opportunities and we put no restrictions on the forms investment will take

Guyana's laws, he explained further, provides for a trisectoral model of development--private public and co-operative.

Cooperation Agreements

Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text]

GUYANA is expected to acquire a significant amount of cement, salt, detergent and tobacco in exchange for rice. It was announced yesterday afternoon.

The announcement was made at the Bidco Management Training Centre following the signing of a number of agreements which climaxed the 12th

meeting of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission.

As a result of agreements reached this week, Cuba is expected to enlarge its team of medical personnel in Guyana.

The two countries have agreed to share experiences in education, culture, health, agriculture and mining.

Signing the co-operation agreement on behalf of Guyana was Senior Minister of Trade and Tourism, Cde. Winston Murray, while Cuban Minister of State Committee for Economic Co-operation, Cde. Ernesto Milanés Bachs signed on

behalf of Cuba.

According to the provisions of the agreements in trade, economic, scientific and technical co-operation, Cuba will also explore the possibilities of assisting in the exploitation of kaolin and gold in Guyana.

In brief remarks during the signing ceremony, Minister Murray described the co-operation between Guyana and Cuba, as a living testimony of South-South co-operation.

He said that each meeting of the Commission has been a learning experience and now there is more certainty

on both sides with regard to the areas for increased co-operation.

Also making a short statement was the Cuban Minister who described the signing ceremony as a fruitful phase of work between the two countries.

The present meeting, he observed, provided the opportunity to witness the continuing friendship between Guyana and Cuba. And he also expressed the hope that Guyana's Trade and Consumer Minister will be able to visit Cuba to explore further areas of collaboration.

Caracas Business Visitors

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

A team of representatives from Grupo Kudor, a West German company with offices in Venezuela, is expected here from Caracas early next month for talks on a joint business venture with local timber entrepreneurs.

The team is likely to include a wood expert from West Germany and two Caracas-based associates, Rafael Viamonte and Lionel Rodriguez.

They plan to hold discussions with the heads and members of the Forest Products Association of Guyana (FPA) and the Guyana Manufacturers' Association (GMA) on the establishment of a joint-venture relationship between the two agencies and Grupo Kudor de Venezuela, the company's Venezuelan associates.

A cable from Caracas to the FPA and the GMA has said that Grupo Kudor is interested in working together with the Guyana Govern-

ment and the country's private sector, supplying its local partners with machinery, spares and hard currency flows, marketing their timber products, and organising their participation in international wood fairs.

"It will work as a credit line payable with wood," the company proposed in the cable.

Another cable received by the FPA last week said that proposed talks with the Grupo Kudor representatives will also feature Guyana's participation in a World Wood Fair in Cologne, West Germany, on May 21 and 22 next, and the company's purchase of over 15 000 greenheart, purpleheart, mora and tatabu logs, and various other species of lumber.

The cables came as the Forest Products Association recently ushered in its fourth year as a revitalised organisation with the election of a new executive council and an appeal by Member of Parliament, Cde. M. Idris Deen, for the FPA to rise to

the challenges posed by Government's new policy initiatives for the country's timber industry.

Speaking after the Association's elections at which Mr John Willems of Willems Timber and Trading Company Limited became President for the ensuing year, Cde Deen called for "meaningful adjustment" compatible with policy measures taken to trigger increased exportation of timber resources, and speedier transformation of the forestry sector into a major industrial base.

Also elected to the FPA's new executive council were Cde Deen as First Vice-President; Cde Ivan Rosheuvel as second Vice-President; and six Executive Committee members—outgoing President David Persaud, Monty Amearally, Ashik Rahman, Natnerine Sukul, Roshan Khan and Neil Hugh. Cde Imran Hack was retained as the Association's Administrative Officer.

HOYTE ADDRESSES THALLIUM-SULPHATE, WAGE ISSUES

Remarks on Poisoning Scare

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Text]

GOVERNMENT will immediately give consideration to deficiencies in existing systems, laws and procedures revealed as a result of the recent public concern over possible thallium sulphate contamination, President Desmond Hoyte said last night.

A special toxicology unit to deal with all kinds of poisoning is to be established, and a team from The Netherlands is due tonight to help in the programme to improve local capability, Cde Hoyte said in a special half-hour broadcast to the nation.

He recounted developments leading to the setting up of a task force on thallium sulphate and the bringing in of foreign experts whose investigations have determined that there is no thallium sulphate poisoning epidemic in Guyana as has been rumoured.

The experience, President Hoyte said, however, leaves a lesson to the nation 'never to allow ourselves to panic or become unduly agitated by rumours and other unsubstantiated allegations.'

The President stressed the need for logical and intelligent responses to problems or difficulties and

said it was 'right and rational' that the Government proceeded to tackle the problem 'in a calm and purposeful way.'

Cde. Hoyte noted also the results of tests on some of Guyana's main exports, wheat flour and other foods showing that they are free of contamination.

Refraining from pronouncing on whether the poison scare was 'a deliberate attempt at mischief' or was generated 'by sheer irresponsibility on the part of some,' the President said citizens would form their own judgement and take precautions to protect themselves from being victimised in the future.

The country has meanwhile, 'suffered much damage as a result of this mischievous invention,' he stated.

"Some citizens were subjected to unnecessary mental anguish, undue pressure was put on our medical services, many man-hours of productive work were lost as a result of persons queuing up to be tested, and our exports and foreign exchange earnings were gravely jeopardised."

As a result of deficiencies revealed during the scare,

Government will immediately start giving consideration to: - reviewing laws related to importation, storage, distribution and use of toxic substances;

- upgrading laboratory facilities;

- establishing a special toxicology unit to deal with the diagnosis and treatment of cases of poisoning of all kinds; and,

- mounting a continuous public education programme about poisons, including symptoms and treatment in suspected poisoning cases.

Contact has already been made with the Pan American Health Organisation, the United States Administration and the European Community, and one early result is that this evening a team from the National Institute of Public Health Toxicology Centre in Utrecht, The Netherlands, led by Dr. Barbara Lopez Cardozo, will arrive in Guyana to help strengthen local capability to deal with such matters.

Sophisticated equipment which the team will bring to Guyana is to be donated to the Government.

Comments on Wage Dispute

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte last night expressed disappointment with "the lack of progress" in Government-TUC wages negotiations and urged the parties, if necessary "to meet from day to day" until the single outstanding issue is settled.

The Finance Ministry and the TUC are required to renegotiate the 5.5 per cent across-the-board element of the January 13 public sector wages agreement as required under the terms of the agreement in view of the significant devaluation

subsequently announced.

The President had in January emphasised in an address to the nation the need for the two parties to speedily reach agreement on a new across-the-board increase to help workers cushion the inevitable price increases.

In his address to the nation last night, however, Cde Hoyte lamented the slow rate of progress, noting that delegations from the two parties had met on January 21, February 20 and March 9 and 12, with no firm date for the next

meeting.

He referred to suggestions in some quarters that the whole wages and salaries packages be reopened, but pointed out that in the framework of the January 13 agreement, only one issue arises, and only this issue can be entertained by the Finance Minister in the present negotiations. Any new issue, if necessary, can be the subject matter of separate discussions outside the framework of current negotiations, he said.

The President said it is unacceptable to have the payment of financial benefits to workers unduly delayed, and that the principle of negotiation in industrial relations must operate within the context of the paramount importance of the interest, welfare and well-being of the workers.

"I therefore urge the parties to sit down and hammer out an agreement in a spirit of goodwill and with a recognition of what is realistic and achievable. I look forward to hearing good news on this matter within a reasonable time."

/9274

CSO: 3298/191

PAPERS REPORT, COMMENT ON GOVERNMENT STAND ON WAGES

OPEN WORD Assessment

Georgetown OPEN WORD in ETGLISH 16 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

In his broadcast last night, President Hoyte said that he was not blaming anyone for the delay in the settlement of the wages issue but cleverly blamed the TUC. He made it clear that he himself was not to blame for the delay.

At first it seemed that he was blaming both sides for the long gaps between meetings. Then he said he had given instructions to the Minister of Finance "to work strenuously" to complete the talks quickly. Was he to blame?

Then came the hidden attack on the TUC. He hinted that the TUC was introducing other matters apart from the straight-across-the-board element. This across-the-board element is all the Minister has a mandate to discuss. So Greenidge is right not to listen to other things

now! (So perhaps the TUC is to blame after all!)

If perhaps the workers agreed to some clauses, without knowing there was going to be a devaluation, and now want to revise some of them, it is just too bad. These points have to be argued outside the present negotiation, says the President.

As GLU President, President Hoyte should know that workers cannot bargain without seeing all the conditions.

OPEN WORD understands the government is offering 15% on the minimum wage to make it \$19.40. This can't buy a pound of margarine. In Barbados, it is \$900 a month minimum.

OPEN WORD is supporting the PCD's march on Saturday to stop people being wiped out by devaluation and thallium poisoning.

Continuing Stalemate

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The impasse between government and the Trades Union Congress over wages and salaries is continuing. Sources close to the talks say that neither side is retreating from its positions, and when they met on Tuesday last the same deadlock obtained. The government side again offered a 15.5 percent increase,

while the TUC side held out for a minimum daily wage of \$30.

On Sunday, March 15, President Hoyte went on the radio to address the nation on 3 basic issues...thallium, the Non-Aligned Bureau Meeting, and the Wages Talks. On the issue of the Wages Talks he expressed concern over the slow pace of the negotiations and criticised the negotiators. On balance, the unions got a greater verbal bashing than the team from the Ministry of Finance. Mr Hoyte's speech made it appear to listeners as if it is the TUC and its affiliated unions which are to blame for the delay in paying the workers their increases.

How can the TUC be to blame when the government side is offering a mere \$19.40 per day as minimum wage in 1987? Many of the items which this pittance is supposed to buy are on the high priced parallel market. \$19.40 per day cannot maintain the worker himself much more his family. Following Mr Hoyte's scathing comments on the negotiators, the Talks which seemed hopeless resumed next day.

The sources say that the only progress made up to press time, is a decision to set up a joint technical committee to look into the question and make recommendations. It is not known if acceptance of the recommendations would be mandatory for both sides. The TUC side consists of its President, George Daniels, General Secretary Joseph Pollydore and two other top TUC officials. The members of the government side have not yet been disclosed.

Some elements in the TUC are of the view that the government might be induced to move to \$21 per day.

Big corporations like Guysuco and Guymine and those other firms which are also export-oriented can afford to pay \$30 per day, because of the windfall they obtained through devaluation. By a mere stroke of the government's pen, (and not by increased exports) they stand to increase their earnings in local currency by 127 percent. Those which were making losses will now make fat profits. Imagine these corporations paying their workers a mere 15.5 percent increase in 1987!

Jagan Statement

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Indications are that the government of Guyana is laying the groundwork necessary for an IMF loan. This includes austerity measures, price and tax rises, devaluation, cuts in essential public spending, etc. So intimated PPP Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan at a press conference at Freedom House on Thursday last. In a statement issued to the media in which he urged suspension of debt payments and the payment to workers of a living wage, he said.

The PPP is deeply concerned about the course being pursued by the PNC regime. It is genuflecting before the International Monetary Fund and World Bank at

the expense of the working people. The government's wage offer to the TUC of a 15.5 percent increase is ridiculous in view of the steep increase in the cost of living attendant on the recent devaluation. (127 percent at the official rate of G\$10-US\$1 or 472 percent at the commercial banks' foreign currency window rate G\$20.75-US\$1).

The wage freeze/restraint policy of the government has led to a serious fall in workers' living standards. A TUC study in February 1982 had disclosed that, for a family of six, monthly earnings were \$250 compared with expenditure of \$654. The Report declared that it was 'obvious that many more families have fallen below the poverty line during 1981' and called for an increase in the minimum wage from G\$12.71 to \$29.70 per day.

In 1986, the Report of the TUC Economic and Research Committee stated that the real wage of the worker now stands at approximately \$4.37 showing a decline of 48 percent since 1977. (Cost of living index 1970 - 100).

The TUC took a negotiating position of a wage of between \$30 and \$52 per day. The government's offer of a maximum of \$19.40 a day is premised on its declared inability to pay more. This inability-to-pay stance is due to the government's decision to make debt payments in 1987 of \$1,516 million (of which \$1,161 million is for principal and interest on the foreign debt), an increase of \$1,086 million over 1985 and \$889 million over 1986.

The government's decision to increase debt payments and devalue substantially the Guyana dollar is based on IMF diktat. This is a reversion of the 1978-81 period of wage freeze (non-payment of \$14 a day and increments in 1979), devaluation and marked deterioration of the economy.

The late President LFS Burnham in his address to the PNC Congress in 1983 attacked the IMF/World Bank proposals for further devaluation, wage restraint, dismissal of workers, cuts in social services and donationalisation. This lead was followed by the Minister of Finance Carl Greenidge in his 1985 budget speech. Now, there is a surrender to these imperialist-controlled financial institutions. Working people's interests are being betrayed.

The TUC should demand the suspension of debt payments and the utilisation of savings for the payment of adequate wages and salaries, improvement of social services and pensions, and loans for house building and repairs. This is the position advocated since 1982 by the PPP at its 21st Congress. Since then several states--Sudan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil--suspended debt payments. And Brazil was recently supported by Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico and Cuba.

Foreign dictation will not solve Guyana's deep-seated problems. IMF "prescriptions" did not produce any positive results in Latin America, Jamaica (1981-86) and Guyana (1978-81). Neither would they achieve anything in the future. No policies, which continuously depress living standards of the workers can lead to development and social progress.

Guyana does not need another IMF 'dose'. What is needed is a suspension of debt payments, a political solution and a broad-based people's democratic government.

Continuing Deadlock

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The deadlock between the government and TUC negotiators on the wages question is dragging on, with neither side giving way. The TUC continues to hold out for \$30 per day as the "rock bottom" minimum acceptable, while the government still offers its ridiculous \$19.40 per day as its "ceiling offer". The workers in the meantime are suffering from escalating prices all around.

An informed source close to the talks told the Mirror that the technical committee set up by both sides to go into the issue is meeting, but there has been no progress. Pressures are now mounting on the TUC to take appropriate action to solve the matter.

The increase being offered by government is a mere \$2.60 per day a sum totally unacceptable in the light of cost of living realities, and the fact that most items needed are on the parallel market. This parallel market is financed at a G\$20 to US\$1 exchange rate, and not the official rate of G\$10 to US\$1 on which government is basing its case.

The so-called "tax relief" offered to the workers by the government is a patent farce as even the TUC can see now. In the budget speech this "relief" is pegged at between \$15 million to \$20 million. However tax on the workers (personal) is estimated at \$28 million. The overall tax grab for 1987 is \$231 million above what was collected in 1986.

The tax relief in allowances offered to the private sector is genuine however and it is noted that company tax which earned \$230 million in 1986 remains unchanged for 1987. There is no increase.

/9274

CSO: 3298/191

WORKERS MARCH PROTESTS CLOSING OF SUGAR FACTORY

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] An impressive march by sugar workers from Diamond Estate on the East Bank of Demerara to the City took place on Thursday last, when workers and their unions protested the arbitrary closure of the Diamond sugar factory. They carried banners declaring: 'GAWU and NAACIE say no closure to sugar factory: Leonora closure means less jobs at Diamond factory closure not the answer; Closure is anti-worker: Down with GUYSUCO high handed policies: Workers of Guyana Unite: GUYSUCO and government destroying sugar industry. Both men and women workers marched with their union leaders at the front-- Albert Boodhoo, President of GAWU; Komal Chand, General Secretary, GAWU, and N. K. Gapaul, General Secretary, NAACIE.

In a joint press release from GAWU and NAACIE it was stated that Diamond sugar workers downed tools on Thursday, and marched in protest of Guysuco's and Government's decision to close down the Diamond factory at month end. The workers are convinced that Guysuco's decision is irresponsible and not in the best interest of the nation nor that of the industry', the statement noted and called for a public debate and inquiry into the matter. These views were presented to the Chairman of Guysuco, by workers by the sugar unions and by the TUC who were told that no useful purpose could be served by discussions. "This," said the joint statement, "certainly contradicts the Corporation's motto of 'Consultation not Confrontation.'"

The closure of Diamond factory is in keeping with Guysuco's rationalisation programme which has so far caused two factories (Diamond and Leonora) to be closed down and thousands of acres being taken out of cane cultivation. Many jobs are jeopardised.

The march ended at Independence Park where workers were addressed by their union leaders. Along the route of the march, there was tumultuous support from all communities. However, police re-routed the march and refused permission for the use of a public address system at a meeting at the roundabout in Water and Church Streets. This was strongly protested by the unions.

Guysuco has since issued a statement that there would be no turning back in the Corporation's decision to rationalise and diversify its operations and no

rescinding of the decision to close the Diamond Sugar Factory. This is due, said Guysuco, to the worldwide state of the sugar market.

A motion put in the National Assembly on the subject of the closure of the Leonora factory by WAP member Eusi Kwayana, was withdrawn by him on Wednesday last.

/9274

CSO: 3298/191

ACTIVITIES OF PATRIOTIC COALITION FOR DEMOCRACY REPORTED

Plans for March

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 14 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] We must use the five-party (PCD) march on Saturday coming, March 21, to defend the poor against the ton of bricks.

The ton of bricks is the 1987 budget and the new burdens on the people.

The DLM, the NDF, the PPP, the PDM and the WPA are all supporting this march and calling on you to act.

The march is to bring down the cost of living, not to bring down the government as they will tell you. The march will point out the wrongs of the government and will demand that things be put right.

Marching is an old form people use to call attention to suffering.

In 1983 many marches took place on this very coast. Many were arrested and charged for unlawful procession. These were marches for wheat flour. So the marchers won that small victory. Bauxite workers marched in Wismar/Mackenzie. Sugar workers and other working people marched on the West Coast Demerara. All of these marches in 1983 were said to be illegal. All were multiracial marches.

This march will go on only if we have the police permission in our pocket. When you are called up for the march, this means we have police permission. Saturday's march will be a march with police permission in our pocket. It will be peaceful and non-violent.

Join This Lawful March

The very planning of this march is shaking things up. The PCD (Patriotic Coalition for Democracy) was formed to fight for free and fair elections in the villages, towns and the National Assembly. It is a mass organisation to fight for the people's rights, starting with the right to vote, the freedom to discuss affairs and to protest when we want. The PCD has also said that it is concerned about the living conditions of the people.

The march will leave Buxton at 9.30 Saturday morning and go along the Public Road to Annandale Market where there will be a short meeting at 10. Other meetings along the route will be at Mon Repos Market (10.30), Success Gas Station (11.30), Betterhope Market (12), Plaisance Market (1), Industry Market (1.30) then down Crown Dam to Public Road to Alexander Street, Kitty where there will be a rally at 3 pm.

It Is a Free March

This is a free march. Guyanese have become accustomed to forced marches. In the march planned by the PCD for Saturday, no one will ask you to "mark your names present." No one will ask you to give a reason in writing if you are absent. This is what they do in the so-called People's Parade held at the time of Burnham's birthday. To fight the free march, they will offer overtime work. They will tell the public, "no cause for alarm." They will announce this week that they have reached agreement with the TUC. They will try every trick in the book.

Why must we accept starvation wages, starvation pensions and starvation NIS payments. You have to watch how fast prices are rising above the wages to understand why money is so short in the house.

Do you know what the minimum wage is in Barbados? It is \$900 a month for the lowest paid government workers. What is our TUC going to accept? Crumbs? Or bread?

If Barbados, with a dollar very close in value to the U.S. dollar has a minimum wage of \$900 a month, what about Guyanese with a ten-to-one exchange rate?

It Is a March for Justice

We are marching also for justice--justice for the hero of a people, Walter Rodney, his mother, his wife, his children and relatives. The life of each person is precious, and the life of useful people is very precious.

Note that Rabbi Washington was charged for murder and convicted for manslaughter, when according to the two judges, the evidence was for murder. Washington's murder charge was for a murder inside the House of Israel which did not involve the PNC. But Hoyte has no intention of charging anyone for any murder in which the PNC is involved. That is why he is taking no steps about Gregory Smith. President Hoyte was a high Cabinet member when Walter Rodney was killed. He did not resign over the incident.

We are marching also to be treated like people, human beings. Looking back at the long list of rigged elections up to 1985 December, and the local government non-elections, not held between 1970 and 1986 and misheld in five towns in December 1986, the five PCD parties have made a very reasonable proposal to the Hoyte Presidency. The PCD said: We want a democratic country for all. Let us negotiate and make it possible.

Our ongoing campaign is for all these things. Now it is also to save ourselves and the rising generation from brain damage, blindness, and chemical death by Thallium.

In our march we raise all these matters in a peaceful, non-violent way. We are using the method of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. If they won small and big victories, we too can win.

Let us join the march of life with all the people of God and the people of justice to fight the forces of evil in our country.

PCD Objectives

Georgetown MIRROR in English 15 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) has launched a campaign for Safety and Justice. The first phase is due to end with a public procession from Buxton-Annandale to Kitty Market Square on Saturday March 21, 1987. Applications have been already sent in to the police authorities for the procession, but so far there has been no response.

This information was disclosed at a press conference called by the PCD on Monday last, venue at Freedom House. Fielding questions from foreign and local journalists were R. Roopnarine (WPA) in the chair; P. Tennessee and W. Persaud (DLM); C. Rohee and N. Chandarpal (PPP); I Austin and W. Payne (PDM).

The PCD issued a statement at the conference, an abridged version of which follows:

In this campaign the PCD is responding to the increased suffering among the working people brought on by the grotesque 127 percent devaluation of last February and to the danger of Thallium Sulphate poisoning that all sections of the coastal population may be facing. It is a fact that there is widespread fear and anxiety being expressed by the people through their organisations that the Thallium crisis is larger than this government is capable of dealing with or is even prepared to admit.

The PCD campaign is also concerned with the continuing violations of human rights in Guyana and, in particular, with the failure of the Hoyte administration to hold the long over due inquests or enquiries into a number of unexplained deaths, among them Vincent Teekah's, Anne Barrow's and Walter Rodney's.

The recent refusal of a magistrate to issue a summons for Gregory Smith, the failure of the police authorities which once professed an interest in Gregory Smith's whereabouts to begin extradition proceedings to bring Smith back to Guyana to face a preliminary inquiry and trial by jury and the continuing refusal of President Hoyte to accede to persistent and widespread calls for an independent enquiry into the death of Walter Rodney, are inconsistent with the proclamations of 'optimism' and 'openings' by the Hoyte administration and its defenders.

The objectives of the PCD campaign are as follows:

1. To lessen the burden placed on the backs of the working people by the 127 percent devaluation and to check the continuing economic ruin of the country, the PCD demands:

- No further devaluation of the Guyana dollar.
- Implementation of the TUC compromise proposal of \$52.00 a day minimum wage.
- Reintroduction of subsidies and price controls for basic consumer goods.
- An immediate halt to the policy of factory closures.
- Abolition of the means test for old age pensioners.
- No retrenchment in the public sector.
- Removal of all taxes and duties on foreign inputs in agriculture, mining and manufacture.

2. To face up to the Thallium disaster the PCD demands:

- That a task force be constituted to include private practitioners to take charge of the Thallium situation.
- That clinics be set up country-wide with trained personnel, adequate, equipment and drugs.
- That a broad-based Commission of Enquiry be established to investigate all the circumstances surrounding the importation, storage, distribution and disposal of Thallium Sulphate.

3. In the interest of justice and a healthier human rights climate, the PCD demands:

- That the Police authorities begin extradition procedures to return Gregory Smith to Guyana.
- That an Independent Commission of Enquiry be set up to investigate all the circumstances surrounding the death of Walter Rodney.

Finally, because the PCD along with the majority of Guyanese citizens, believes that real and lasting safety for all Guyanese will come only with the restoration of the right to choose a government in 'free and fair elections, we again invite President Hoyte to schedule a dialogue with the PCD on electoral reform.

WPA Leader's Role

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 16 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The PCD's proposal to President H. D. Hoyte that he should announce a time table for the democratisation of the country was made public through Mr Eusi Kwayana on a recent visit to the USA.

The visitor explained that the Guyanese opposition was exploring the road to peaceful change and was determined not to create a platform for invasion of the country by any forces.

He stressed that when the quality of elections and the attitude to human rights crimes like the 1980 assassination of Walter Rodney and others were considered, there was no democratic opening in Guyana. Kwayana pointed out that no one ever needed the permission of a Minister to start a press. In Guyana, throughout the Burnham regime, the opposition had printed by complying with the newspaper laws. A bond is lodged and then one published at one's own risk. The CARIBBEAN CONTACT was also published outside of Guyana and sold here.

Copies of the letter to President Hoyte were lodged with anti-dictatorial and people's organisations in several cities.

On behalf of the PCD, Mr Kwayana also delivered a letter to the Organisation of American States (OAS) which at present has no active oversight of human rights in Guyana, and briefed the delegates.

He visited the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, the American Friends Service Committee, TransAfrica and three Congressmen and their staffs.

He was accompanied by a WPA support group member and other Guyanese residents in the USA.

Report on Protest March

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 87 pp 1,3

[Text]

The grouping of minority political parties known as the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) yesterday staged a march from Buxton on the East Coast of Demerara to Kitty in the City.

The number of the participants kept fluctuating along the way ranging from about 300 at the start to about 700 to 1 000 the most, at any one time. The regular marchers were estimated between 300 and 400.

Among those who participated in the march were Minority and People's Progressive Party Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Working People's Alliance Leaders Eusi Kwayana and Rupert Roopnarine, People's Democratic Movement

Leader, Paul Tennessee and the PPP's Janet Jagan.

Dr. Jagan dropped out of the march at Success and joined his car while his wife, Janet, dropped out at Better Hope. They both reportedly went home and rested but Dr. Jagan rejoined at Conversation Tree, Bel Air, shortly before the end of the march. He marched less than half the distance.

The organisers said that the march, which began around 10:00 hrs, and ended around 17:30 hrs, after a meeting at the Kitty Market Square, was staged for "Safety and Justice".

The marchers accompanied by drums, and some of them carrying placards, chanted for higher wages and salaries, reduced food prices, subsidies on

gasolene, electoral reforms and revocation of the recent decision to devalue the Guyana Dollar. They also called for an investigation into thallium sulphate contamination.

A number of whistle stop meetings were held along the way, with stops being made at Annandale, Lusignan, Success, Better Hope, Pleasance and Industry.

The chants along the way formed the basis of the speeches by Dr. Jagan and Tennessee at the end-of-march meeting at Kitty, chaired by Kweyana and attended by about 500 persons.

While the organisers seemed pleased about the participation, some political observers said, that it was very instructive that five political parties, combined, could not have mustered more support.

One observer quipped: "The parties are taking the Government's physical fitness programme seriously."

/9274

CSO: 3298/191

GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION DISAGREE ON ELECTORAL REFORM

Green Statement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] Prime Minister Hamilton Green has assured the National Assembly that Government is willing to listen to proposals by Minority parties for further electoral reforms.

He reminded the Assembly Wednesday that Government has already addressed several concerns—including those about proxy and overseas voting--raised by Minority parties and stands ready to address other proposals if these are practicable.

The Assembly was at the time debating a number of motions including one by People's Progressive Party Leader, Dr Cheddi Jagan calling on Government to take steps to ensure that at all elections the votes are counted at the place of poll in the presence of the polling agents of the parties contesting the elections.

Working People's Alliance member, Mr Eusi Kwayana who also spoke on the motion said that the normalisation of political life in Guyana depends on a number of electoral reforms. He contended that recent electoral reforms were quantitative rather than qualitative.

The motion was rejected by the Assembly after the Prime Minister dismissed statements by Dr Jagan as containing no new ideas nor concepts.

Opposition Views

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] The People's National Congress has once again dashed hopes for widespread demands for significant electoral reforms when last Wednesday in a 7:33 vote in the National Assembly it rejected a motion by Dr Cheddi Jagan calling for ballot counts at the place of poll in elections

Prior to the PNC "No" vote, Prime Minister Hamilton Green, however, during a half hearted response attempted to cool the situation by suggesting that in due course the opposition will have time to discuss this matter.

"What kind of slippery business is this," retorted Dr Jagan, pointing out that while the Prime Minister said the matter will be discussed in due course, when the opposition wrote the President on the subject, there is no positive response.

In fact, Dr Jagan met President Desmond Hoyte on the issue before the 1985 elections. Six demands were made. The President agreed to three. Dr Jagan told Parliament that the President, new on the job, said he hadn't time to consider the others which the opposition deemed to be the most important ones.

President Hoyte had agreed on changes as regards postal, proxy and overseas voting but the major demands relating to the counting of ballots at the place of poll and an independent elections commission were not agreed upon.

Contrary to PNC propaganda, said Dr Jagan the demand for counting of the ballots at the place of poll is not a new one.

It was raised after the 1968 elections when wads of ballot papers were found in boxes in the Pomeroon and again before and after the 1975 elections when the ballot boxes were seized by the army and kept for more than two days before being taken to the central counting station. The official report on the 1968 elections by the Chief Elections Officer said that bounded packages of ballots were found in boxes. Prior to 1968, this demand was not there since previous elections were conducted fairly with the elections machinery not in the hands of the party in government. But in 1967, in preparation for the 1968 elections, the PNC passed laws which emasculated the powers of the Election Commission giving the ruling party full control over the election machinery.

Also speaking on the motion was WPA assemblyman Eusi Kwayana. He said the situation in Guyana will "normalise" only when this matter is settled. "The time has come when the laws must be agreeable to all," he said and insisted that the right to vote involves the right to have the vote counted properly. "What can go wrong when the votes are not counted at the place of poll is anybody's guess," he declared.

Mr Kwayana referred to the PCD's letter to the President, which called for a time table for the democratisation of the country. And in a move which had PNCites surprised, Mr Kwayana waved four official ballot papers which were found in "a place of disposal."

Dr Jagan urged the PNC to agree to electoral reforms and stop the charges of fraud which has sullied the name of Guyana. Fraud is having adverse effects on the economy and forcing Guyanese to leave. He said that "in the interest of peace and harmony" this demand must be met before local government elections.

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CSO: 3298/191

WPA CONTRIBUTOR TO STABROEK NEWS QUILTS OVER NED BACKING

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

THE disclosure that the National Endowment for Democracy, which has provided significant funding to facilitate the publication of the STABROEK NEWS, had a covert aide to it known as project democracy caused one of the newspaper's contributors to "withdraw."

Rupert Roopnarine of the Working People's Alliance in a letter to STABROEK NEWS Managing Editor David De Caires said that he could not in "good conscience" participate any further in the newspaper. Roopnarine's letter of February 21 written on a WPA letterhead states:

David de Caires
Managing Editor
Stabroek News
Peter Rose & Anika Streets
Georgetown

Dear David,

Sincere apologies for not returning your phone calls yesterday, but I had some out of town assignments and did not return to the city until late at night.

It is with considerable regret that I must inform you that I feel myself unable in good conscience to participate any further in the newspaper while it does not distance itself in an unequivocal way from the alleged activities of the

National Endowment for Democracy. From everything I have been able to understand, Project Democracy represents the vile agenda of the international terrorism being sponsored by the anti-American group inside the present administration of Mr. Reagan. I find it difficult to understand why so many days have been allowed to pass without the paper, which surely can have no truck with these anti-human practices, stating in the clearest possible way its repudiation of these things.

I do not regard my decision, and hope that

you will not, as based in any ideological intolerance. As I hope you have understood from our brief working relationship on the paper, neither I nor the party in whose ranks I am proud to fight, find any difficulty working now or at any time with persons of different persuasions. But for me, this is not an ideological matter. No ideology has a monopoly on human decency. And it is human decency on which I base my decision to withdraw.

I will be entirely happy to review the situation in the light of any positive developments.

Yours sincerely,
Rupert.

PETROLEUM SUBSIDY, PRICES DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 87 p 4

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is still subsidising the cost of petroleum and other inputs consumed by the country's burgeoning industrial sector. Subsidies are being enjoyed by industry in the form of duty free concessions, allowances and loans. Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has reminded Minority Leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan and other members of the Minority in the National Assembly.

In speeches in the National Assembly last Wednesday supporting a Working People's Alliance motion for a 25 per cent reduction in fuel prices, Minority members had contended that the absence of a subsidy on imported fuels was stagnating output in industry, pushing up the cost of building materials and creating hardships for passengers.

The solution, Dr. Jagan opined, hinged partly on the abolishment of taxes on gasoline to all consumers except private motor cars and a reduction of the cost of fuel consumption to industry's public transportation, manufacturing, agricultural and forestry sectors.

Finance Minister Greenidge, who like Trade and Tourism Minister Winston Murray agreed with the Minority Parliamentarians that "we ought to do everything possible to maximise production," gave them a few reminders:

- 47 per cent of the items imported duty free into Guyana are fuels and lubricants consumed by industry.

- Reports by the Guyana Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank show that loans to Gaibank from 1973 to 1984 have been provided on a subsidised basis and the interest rate under which recipients draw credit from the bank are highly subsidised.

- A significant percentage of the \$72m in loans approved for the development of the forestry sector between 1973 and 1984 was also subsidised.

- The ratio of customs duty on total imports in 1983 was a mere 32 per cent of the

cost of those imports, the lowest proportion in any developing country with the exception of Singapore, which is a free port.

Cde. Greenidge said that as a result of Government's subsidy on petroleum and the difficulty the country still experienced in accumulating foreign exchange, "we're operating close to the boundaries over what we can pay for fuel (imports)."

And "the country can only afford to give tax concessions that it is in a position to finance," he added.

He said the country's limited financial resources made it impossible for the Government to subsidise everything it would like to finance immediately.

Nevertheless, the Government had extended a number of income tax concessions and allowances designed to stimulate the growth of forestry and other industrial sectors, Cde. Greenidge noted.

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CS0: 3298/191

RICE MILLS, AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS TO GET IDB, IFAD FUNDS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Mar 87 p 8

[Text]

Under an Industrial Development Bank (IDB) industrial loan agreed on with the Government of Guyana, funds have been allocated for the reactivation of eleven rice mills in Region Three.

Such mills will be provided with much needed spare parts and other items related to the processing of rice.

This disclosure was made by Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Cde Vibert Parvatan as he declared open the Windsor Forest Communal pasture recently.

Cde Parvatan said that Government has also entered into a loan agreement with the International Fund for

Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the purpose of financing the East Bank Essequibo Development Project. The main objective of the project is to increase the income and standard of living of farmers, by increasing production and productivity.

Unlike most of the projects in the past, the East Bank Essequibo Development Project involves the rehabilitation of infrastructure which includes the repairs and replacement of hydraulic structures and bridges; weeding and desilting drainage and irrigation channels and the rehabilitation of the

Regional Workshop.

The project also provides for the repair and upgrading of about 6.6 kilometres of fair weather roads and about 11.3 kilometres of all-weather roads.

Meanwhile, approximately \$1.5 million (US) has been allocated by IFAD for procurement and distribution for sale of farm inputs which will include equipment, fertilisers, chemicals, spare parts and tools.

The programme also includes improvement of the Parika Marketing Centre; agricultural research, extension and training; and technical assistance.

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CSO: 3298/191

PROJECTS WILL BOOST REGION 3 AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Apr 87 p 5

[Text] Work has started on a five-year, multi-million dollar project to help over 3,500 small farmers in Region Three, West Demerara-Essequibo Islands.

The project which started late February involves the rehabilitation of roads, canals, other drainage and irrigation works, and upgrading of agricultural facilities, including the Parika Marketing Centre and the Vreed-en-Hoop seedling nursery.

Farmers will also be trained in new farming techniques, and will receive tools, machinery, seeds, fertilisers and other inputs.

The \$9m (US) project is funded by the Guayan Government, and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Project Manager Ben Carter says that this is perhaps the first major internationally-funded programme that is being executed directly through the Regional Democratic Council. The RDC is being assisted by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI).

Calling it an 'integration' project, Cde Carter has said that farmers will receive help in almost every relevant area. "We are not only building structures but are also training farmers, providing seeds, fertilisers, equipment and such essential inputs on a credit-term arrangement."

The project will involve the setting up a vibrant agricultural extension service that will support farming in the region. This service will include a modern seedling nursery at Pouderoyen, a demonstration planting plot at Lookout and refrigerated storage and marketing facilities at Parika.

The Region Three project is concentrated in what is called Area One, where most of the work will be done--from Vergenoegen to Salem, and Area Three--from Vreed-en-Hoop to Hague.

Most of the drainage and irrigation works, including the digging and re-shaping of 122 miles of canals will be carried out in Area One.

About 38 hydraulic structures and a four-mile road will also be constructed in Area One. The road is to help farmers to transport their produce to the Parika Marketing Centre and other main outlets.

The Area Three programme will entail the building of a seven-mile road to replace a mud-dam linking Vreed-en-Hoop to the Ruimzicht rice silo.

While the project is to help increase the income of farmers planting less than six hectares of land, it is also to cement a firm agricultural base in the area.

As such, during the project crop diversification will be encouraged. Planting patterns will be modified according to recommendations, and research conducted by NARI. The Institute will study ways of improving crop varieties in the area, producing higher-yields and enriching the soil.

Scores of farmers will be trained annually on farm financing and marketing and it is expected that on completion of the project in 1992, these small farmers would be able to increase their annual incomes by over 50 percent.

Meanwhile, two committees to manage the project have been formed. The Regional Co-ordinating Committee with about 10 members, and headed by Regional Chairman Angad Rupee, meets monthly. The Georgetown-based Project Policy Co-ordinating Committee also meets monthly to look at policy matters.

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CSO: 3298/191

REGION 6 TO TAKE STEPS TO ENHANCE RICE PRODUCTIONS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 27 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text]

SENIOR Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Patrick McKenzie has called on Guyana Rice Milling and Marketing Authority (GRMMA) officials in Region Six to put in place arrangements to speed up the intake of paddy from rice farmers.

Speaking with supervisors and management officials at GRMMA's complex at Black Bush Polder and Corniverton on Monday, Dr McKenzie said that farmers' trailers must not have to be in

queues for days before their paddy can be accepted for milling or storage.

Minister McKenzie who was on a three-day visit to Region Six, touring GRMMA's installations in the area, also held discussions with workers. His visit to the Corentyne was part of a country-wide tour of GRMMA sites and rice mills that the Minister has undertaken to assess the operations of that agency.

Accompanying the Minister on his Region Six visit were GRMMA General Manager (ag) Leroy Small; Production Manager Alfred Ramwattan; Engineering Manager, Compton Jones; Finance Controller Kumar Chelleppah; General Manager of Black Bush Polder Complex, Neville Rutherford, and Technical Manager, National Paddy and Rice Grading Centre (NPRGC) Harold Cumberbatch.

After an extensive inspection of the installations at Black Bush Polder, Dr McKenzie said there was the need for systematic maintenance of buildings, equipment and machinery. He said that if this was not implemented, a complete rehabilitation of the complex

will have to be undertaken in a few years, an exercise that the Government cannot afford.

Dr McKenzie also pointed out the need for tighter security at storage bonds, not only to prevent thefts but also to avoid a host of other problems including fire and contamination, that could well arise.

Dr McKenzie told the workers that GRMMA was not obtaining the returns commensurate with its capacity, and there was the need for a serious review of the agency's operations. Government, he said, will not allow GRMMA to continue operating at a loss.

At Black Bush Polder Minister McKenzie also discussed with workers the implications of the 1987 budget and the devaluation of the Guyana dollar. (Joel Persaud)

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CSO: 3298/191

BRIEFS

SECURITY EXERCISE--A countrywide Joint Services Internal Security exercise begins on Wednesday April 1, to test operational readiness. Soldiers, policemen and other members of the uniformed services will be deployed in vehicles and on foot, in several villages and townships, mainly on the coast. The public is asked not to be alarmed but, instead, to co-operate and assist where possible. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Mar 87 p 1] /9274

ROGUE TUC PICKET--The picketing exercise mounted Friday outside the Bank of Guyana building by a few executive members of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) was not mounted with the blessings of the Executive Council of the TUC, several executive members of the Council explained yesterday. They explained further that no decision to mount such a picket was agreed at any meeting of the council and, as such, those who participated in the exercise did so on their own behalf, as individual citizens and not in the name of the TUC. Among the six persons who formed the picket line, reportedly to protest the current discussions between representatives of the Guyana Government and representatives of the IMF, were TUC President, Cde George Daniels, and TUC Secretary-General, Joseph Pollydore. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 29 Mar 87 p 1] /9274

PNC MEMBERSHIP--Over the past year more than 8,000 Guyanese sought membership to the People's National Congress; for the first time. Applications for membership came from persons countrywide where active membership drives are being conducted through the Party and its organs--the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement and the Young Socialist Movement. Public interest in the Party is a reflection of the Party's policy of reaching out to the people in every administrative region through meetings at both district and neighbourhood levels and through community programmes involving top Party and Government officials. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 22 Mar 87 p 2] /9274

COASTAL-FLOODING DEFENSES--Maintenance of the sea defences costs Government approximately \$5,000 per foot. Sea defence works stretch along Guyana's 270-mile coast. When he addressed the National Assembly Wednesday, Agriculture Minister Dr Patrick Mc Kenzie said Government has since spent vast sums to raise the sea defence by three feet and to desilt the irrigation canals. The flooding was due to abnormally high tides that left as much as one foot of water along the eastern half of Bush Lot and Reliance. Forty-five homesteads were affected but there were no reports of loss of crop and livestock. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Mar 87 p 8] /9274

1985 GOLD SALES--Guyana realised nearly \$20 million from the sale of gold during 1985 following sales to brokers in the United Kingdom and the United States. In that year the Guyana Gold Board purchased from miners 10,329 ounces of the precious yellow metal which was sold at an average price nearly \$2,000 per ounce. Since then the Guyana Gold Board has been receiving increasing amounts of gold. [Text] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 29 Mar 87 p 8] /9274

TRADE MISSION TO TRINIDAD--A Guyanese Trade Mission, headed by Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, Cde Haslyn Parris is scheduled to leave Guyana today for a six-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago. The team, whose members are drawn from both the private and public sectors, will meet and hold discussions with Government and private sector representatives in the twin-island Republic, as a result of several initiatives taken in recent months. The Guyana team includes Minister of Forestry, Cde Dharamdeo Sawh, Economic Adviser to President Desmond Hoyte, Darlene Harris; President of the Guyana Manufacturers' Association, Brian Gittens; Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on the Private Sector, Mike Brassington; and Managing Director of T. Geddes Grant (Guyana) Ltd, Ram Singh. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Mar 87 p 4] /9274

BELGIUM'S AMBASSADOR--The Ambassador designate of Belgium to Guyana, His Excellency Mr Jacques Ivan D'Hondt will today present his letters of credence to Prime Minister Hamilton Green at an accreditation ceremony at the Presidential Secretariat, at 10:00 hrs. Mr D'Hondt holds university degrees in Diplomatic Sciences, as well as in Archaeology and History of Arts and speaks English, Spanish, Dutch and French. Since beginning his diplomatic career in 1961, he has worked at diplomatic missions in Bogota, San Jose de Costa Rica, and as Ambassador in Singapore City, Addis Ababa and Djakarta. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Mar 87 p 4] /9274

TUC ON IMF TALKS--A few members of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) picketed outside the Bank of Guyana building yesterday to protest the discussions now taking place between representatives of the Guyana Government and representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF team is here making an assessment of the extent and effectiveness of the 1987 budget measures in the framework of Guyana's medium term adjustment programme. However, according to the TUC, yesterday's picket line was mounted because the TUC executive believes that the Government will be entering into an agreement with the IMF and that any arrangement at this time with the Fund would result in more difficulties for workers. The six-member picket line which was mounted for about two hours around midday, yesterday, was headed by TUC President George Daniels and General Secretary Joseph Pollydore. Daniels carried a placard which read "The People before the Debt" while Pollydore's placard read "IMF prescription means more devaluation, more taxation, more exploitation, starvation and death." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Mar 87 p 5] /9274

CITIZEN HELP FOR TOWN COUNCIL--Seven committees with 15 co-opted citizens have been set up to assist the Linden Town Council (LTC), Linden Mayor Hugh Harris has disclosed in a recent radio broadcast. This follows a meeting with

President Desmond Hoyte and Councillors from the Regional Democratic Council, and the LTC, at the Town Council Chambers. The meeting was held last month during the President's visit to Linden. The budgets of both Councils were discussed and President Hoyte gave several guidelines regarding the constitution of committees set up by the Town Council, Cde Harris observed. The new committees are environmental health, security, works, social development, administration and legal affairs, markets and abattoir, and finance. Cde Harris said that LTC Councillors have also had areas assigned to them. The 19 councillors, including the Mayor, will be responsible for various zones in the Linden area. [Excerpt] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

ESSEQUIBO RECLAMATION--Work is nearing completion on a conservancy flood relief structure to link up two conservancy basins designed to provide adequate drainage, irrigation and access to 50,000 acres of arable land on the Essequibo Coast. The relief structure represents a major component of the multi-million dollar Tapakuma Irrigation Project, started in 1977 at an estimated overall cost of \$141m (at 1977 prices) with the aim of establishing, improving and extending drainage and irrigation infrastructure for the development of a "green" revolution in what is now Region Two, Pomeroon-Supenaam. After two deadline extensions, Guyconstruct says it should be able to complete the structure within two weeks for the creation of a second conservancy to operate in conjunction with the Ituribisi conservancy through a link-up the Regional Administration hopes will be possible at month-end. The Tapakuma Irrigation Project, divided into four phases or "contracts" is expected to double rice production, through improved quality of seed paddy and yield per acre, the introduction of double cropping, a substantial increase in dairy pasturage, and increases in the cultivation of coconut palms, blackeye peas, plantains and ground provisions, fruit and vegetable crops. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 87 p 4] /9274

CSO: 3298/191

ATTORNEY GENERAL: EVIDENCE AGAINST LOPEZ PORTILLO LACKING

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Feb 87 pp 4-A, 28-A

[Text] The attorney general of the republic, Sergio Garcia Ramirez, claimed that the investigation conducted by the department for which he is responsible regarding a charge of embezzlement against former President Jose Lopez Portillo, "after a prior examination of the pertinent legal elements, culminated in a decision not to take penal action for lack of evidence."

And he added that, in the claim submitted against the former secretary of SEDUE [Urban Development and Ecology Secretariat], Guillermo Carrillo Arena, there were no legal elements for taking penal action.

Interviewed aboard the Lear jet, XE-PGR, of the Attorney General's Office, the official also reported on the investigation of Edmundo de la Madrid, noting that it was being continued. "He cannot yet be claimed innocent, but it cannot be said that he is guilty either."

Garcia Ramirez agreed to answer the reporter's questions, but always avoiding mention of the names of the persons about whom he was being queried.

Concerning Jorge Diaz Serrano and Arturo Durazo Moreno, he confined himself to stating: "It is logical for them to assume their defense and claim to be innocent, but we have proven the opposite with evidence in the records."

As for the case of Lopez Portillo, he said that it has been properly documented in a case record held in the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic [PRG], and that the respective resolution was signed "by me."

According to Garcia Ramirez, "As a standard of individual conduct, but particularly as a standard of institutional conduct for a public servant, the course of action is to apply the law and state the truth; saying what is so, as one views and assesses it in good faith."

He added that it would be preferable that there be a mistake, but not a lie. One lie is concealed with another, until the time comes when it is impossible to go on in that way. Therefore, he repeated, the truth must be told.

The attorney general of the republic, who traveled to Chihuahua to preside over a meeting for legislative updating, in order to bring those responsible for the prosecution of justice abreast of current matters, declared: "If one becomes diverted from the law, he embarks on the realm of arbitrary conduct and that is intolerable in us."

He explained that stringency outside the law is tyranny and complaisance outside the law is complicity. He stressed that the public official has no right to that.

Garcia Ramirez went on to say that truth is an obligation and, at the same time, the defense of the public official.

He claimed that, over 4 years after having been named attorney general, "I can say that the institution and most of the public servants working in it have made a major effort to carry out the PGR's legal, constitutional mission."

Nevertheless, he explained: "I shall not be the one to evaluate the foregoing."

Then, when asked whether there has really been forcefulness on the part of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, he remarked: "Every time we have had information about a case, regardless of who was involved, we have acted. And we have done so with the evidence procured and in accordance with the laws in effect."

He explained that he was aware that the action taken by the Attorney General's Office "might seem insufficient to many, and hence it is important to reiterate the fact that the department can act only on the basis of evidence and laws."

He emphasized: "Going beyond the law would mean turning the Attorney General's Office into a tyrannical instrument."

2909

CSO: 3248/264

MONTERREY CHURCH DOCUMENT FAULTS CONCENTRATION OF POWER

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 1A

[Text] According to the Monterrey Church, the excessive concentration of the federal and state executive branch, PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] absolute control of electoral processes, and the entrenchment of a single party in power for the last 60 years are some of the deficiencies and evils currently besetting public life in Mexico.

The pastoral instruction document entitled "The Political Dimension of Faith," of the Monterrey archdiocese, released yesterday by Fr Hernan Gerardo Zambrano Margain, chancellor, and Fr Miguel Alanis, director of the local social and archdiocesan secretariat, claims that it is impossible to separate politics from faith.

The 40-page document is signed by Archbishop Adolfo Suarez Rivera, Auxiliary Bishop Alfonso Hinojosa Berrones, and Zambrano Margain, and represents the position of the local archdiocese regarding the country's political life.

Alanis stressed that the Church cannot remain dissociated from the country's political events, and, with this communique, is attempting to make up for the improper use of politics, in its idea and practice.

The document states: "We have felt the need for our prophetic-pastoral ministry to be expressed, so as to enlighten our political reality, based on faith, to clarify the relationship between faith and the political realm, and to prompt a commitment for change in that area."

The most prominent feature of the document is the treatment accorded the excessive concentration of power in the government and the state, which has brought as a result the "paralysis" of the nation.

"Strong state, weak nation. The excessive concentration of power in the government and the state invariably causes weakness and disability in the nation.

"Political action, because it is aimed at the common welfare and has a universal nature, is a right and an obligation, not only for public officials and those of political parties, as is often claimed," notes the document, "but also of every

member of the society, the intermediate groups, and the basic institutions of social life, including the churches and other religious communities."

With respect to democracy and the Church, Alanis remarked, the values of democracy coincide with Christian humanism. Hence, the Church recognizes that they should be incorporated more extensively into its life and activity.

In Section 26 of Chapter II, it declares: "Anyone who is not with me is against me. It is impossible to belong to the Kingdom of Jesus 'privately,' and accept lies, exploitation, hatred, corruption, and fraud in social relations."

Alanis observed that Jesus Christ was not neutral politically, noting: "Jesus shunned political messianism; he was not neutral politically, nor can the Church be such. He acted as a political subject, and that is what is being sought with this document: political subjects participating in their society."

2909

CSO: 3248/262

BISHOPS REJECT CLERICAL PROVISIONS OF NEW ELECTORAL CODE

Mexico City DOCUMENTACION E INFORMACION CATOLICA in Spanish 5 Mar 87 pp 143-144

[Text] Mexican Episcopal Conference [CEM]

Considerations Regarding Article 343 of the CFE [Federal Electoral Code]

On 12 February of this year, the Official Gazette published the new Federal Electoral Code, Article 343 of which provides the following penalty:

"A penalty of from 500 to 1,000 general minimal days' wages in effect in the Federal District at the time that the crime is committed, and from 4 to 7 years' imprisonment will be imposed on ministers of religious denominations who, by any means or for any reason, induce the electorate to vote for a certain party or candidate, or against a party or candidate, or who promote abstention or exert pressure on the electorate."

This code went into effect the day following its publication.

The aforementioned penalty, in its tone and substance, could not help but evoke disturbing and unfavorable shock among all sensible persons who have examined it with good will and sound judgment.

1. In fact, it is a shock to the most fundamental acknowledgment of human rights for a penalty, at the end of the 20th century, to favor discrimination among individuals, curtail freedom of opinion and speech, discourage hope of democratic openness, and pave the way for violation of fundamental rights of individuals, underwritten by Mexico in international forums.

2. It is a shock to the Mexican people's desire for freedom that such a penalty, which is not only unconstitutional but also anti-constitutional, should be allowed; because the text of Article 343 violates rights explicitly stated in Articles 1, 6, 7 and others of the Mexican Constitution. Even if the validity of this penalty were presumed, its disproportion and premeditated ambiguity are noteworthy. It leaves the person affected exposed to countless arbitrary acts, especially on the part of those who are still motivated by an anti-religious mentality.

3. It is a shock to the spirit of the Mexican Catholic that there should be thusly reaffirmed, in the current legislation, a distasteful reminder of past struggles, despite the fact that the Catholic Church in Mexico, at the Third General Assembly of Latin American Bishops (among other similar ones), has ratified the following criteria in the political area:

"We do not claim any privilege for the Church; we respect the rights of all, and the sincerity of all convictions, with full respect for the autonomy of the earthly realities. Nevertheless, we demand for the Church the right to give testimony of its message and to use its prophetic word of annunciation and denunciation in the evangelical sense, for the correction of the false images of society, incompatible with the Christian view."

4. As Mexican bishops, we observe once again in Article 343 of the CFE the prejudices of Article 130 of the Constitution, and its correlative articles, the anti-religious criteria of which are still preventing many from viewing the positive evolution of the history and recognizing the loyal effort of the Catholic Church, in gearing itself to the new times, and continuing to provide its evangelizing contribution to the overall development of Mexico.

As individuals, as Mexican Catholics, and as pastors of the people of God, we publicly express our dissatisfaction with the aforementioned Article 343, because it is an expression of hostility, illegality, and injustice.

May God grant our rulers, through the intercession of Holy Mary of Guadalupe, insight and success in promoting harmony, justice, and peace in our native land.

Mexico City, D.F., 18 February 1987

On behalf of the Mexican bishops:

Sergio Obeso Rivera, archbishop of Xalapa and president of CEM

J. Esaul Robles Jimenez, bishop of Zamora and vice president of CEM

Manuel Perez-Gil Gonzalez, bishop of Tlalnepantla and secretary general of CEM

Luis Morales Reyes, coadjutor bishop of Torreon and general treasurer of CEM

Antonio Lopez Avina, archbishop of Durango, representative of the Vizcaya-Pacific Region

Emilio Berlie Belaunzaran, bishop of Tijuana, representative of the Northwest Region

Jose A. Llaguno Farias, bishop of Tarahumara, representative of the Northern Region

Juvencio Gonzalez Alvarez, bishop of Ciudad Valles, representative of the Northeast Region

Jose Fernandez Arteaga, bishop of Colima, representative of the Western Region

Miguel Patino Velazquez, bishop of Apatzingan, representative of the Don Vasco Region

Anselmo Zarza Bernal, bishop of Leon, representative of the Bajio Region

Manuel Samaniego Barriga, bishop of Cuautitlan, representative of the Circ. Metropolitan Region

Ricardo Watty Urquidi, auxiliary bishop of Mexico City, representative of the D.F. Metropolitan Region

Pedro Aranda Diaz, bishop of Tulancingo, representative of the Central Region

Luis Munive Escobar, bishop of Tlaxcala, representative of the Eastern Region

Mario de Gasperin Gasperin, bishop of Tuxpan, representative of the Gulf Region

Jose Ma. Hernandez Gonzalez, bishop of Chilapa, representative of the Southern Region

Luis Miguel Canton Marin, bishop of Tapachula, representative of the South Pacific Region

Rafael Garcia Gonzalez, bishop of Tabasco, representative of the Southeast Region

2909

CSO: 3248/262

SURVEY YIELDS CAPITAL AREA MASS TRANSIT RIDERSHIP PROFILE

Mexico City PUNTO in Spanish 9 Feb 87 p 12

[Text] Every day, for reasons of work, study, and return home, 21.7 million trips are made in the Mexico City metropolitan area, four fifths of which involve mass transportation, as Bernardo Navarro B. and Ovidio Gonzalez, researchers from the Xochimilco Metropolitan Autonomous University, have indicate.

Architect Navarro notes that this impressive mobility is associated mainly with the moving of those engaged in "activities strictly necessary for the economy and for reproduction of the work force."

Backed by official investigations, he remarks that, at present, Route-100 and the Mass Transport System (Metro) transport approximately 10.14 million users in a single day: 5.64 million on Route-100, and 4.5 million on the Metro.

He says that, at terminal stations such as Zaragoza, Airport, Moctezuma, Chapultepec, and Tacubaya, the Metro receives 707,700 passengers; at the Basilica, La Raza, and Zapata stations, 452,451 users; in the line five terminals, 98,447 passengers; and at the Tacuba and Ermita stations, 420,331 users.

Passengers arrive at those stations on Route-100 buses, covering 36 routes which converge from the east and southeast, directions with low-income residents; 20 routes from the north and northwest of the city, areas which are typically industrial and working-class; eight routes come from the western ravines; while 17 more converge from the southern low-income settlements to the Metro stations.

Insofar as "minibuses" are concerned, we cite only one significant example. Two major routes operate at the Tasquena Metro station, 6 and 12; and each of them, by itself, has over 1,000 "minibuses" which make the Tasquena-Tulyehualco-San Pablo run.

Luis Miranda and Serfin Corona, operators of these mass-transit taxis, comment that the run takes approximately 45 minutes one way, and a similar interval to return: 20 and even 30 minutes less than the bus takes. The maximum fare charged here does not exceed 250 pesos, and each of them (if it starts early) can make between eight and 10 complete round trips.

Luis Miranda reports that each operator earns no less than 7,000 pesos per day for himself, and 15,000 or 12,000 for the owner of the minibus. "There are some who don't touch base, and pick up fares all day in Tasquena, Tulyehualco, and San Pablo."

Moreover, architect Ovidio Hernandez adds that some important conclusions were drawn from a poll taken in four low-income residential zones (Granjias Valle de Guadalupe, San Miguel Teotongo, Isidro Favela, and Santa Fe), "such as learning that the flow of users moved daily on mass transport in the city is about equivalent to the total population of Buenos Aires, Bogota, and Caracas combined."

It is inferred from the poll taken in 520 households that most of the heads of families are employed as laborers, although a considerable percentage is self-employed; a quarter of the heads of families in these urban communities earn income lower than the minimum wage; and nearly 38 percent of them do earn a minimum wage. The rest have income from one to three family members.

Ovidio Gonzalez goes on to say that it is noteworthy that 46.4 percent of the members, on the average, limit their travel to destinations that make it possible for them to move on foot. In other words, almost half of those polled virtually do not use the transportation facilities.

To leave their urban communities, they use mainly R-100, the suburban buses to a lesser extent, and the minibuses marginally; the Metro is used as a second means, especially if it is to travel long distances.

In this respect, Bernardo Navarro considers it fitting to note that approximately 40 percent of the users of the Metro, R-100, and suburban buses are inhabitants of low-income zones, such as Netzahualcoyotl, Valle de Ayotla, Chimalhuacan, Los Reyes, Xalostoc, Iztapalapa, Santa Fe, and Ajusco, among others.

He says that in 1983 the Mexico City and Central Region Metropolitan Zone Development Program made studies to learn how much time was spent by the laborer living in the city, and particularly in the state of Mexico, to reach his job, or how much time was spent by a student or anyone who generally used some means of transportation to reach his destination.

"By 1983, the average time spent on trips in the central zone and the metropolitan area was reckoned at 52 minutes; however, there are laborers from Neza who have to make an 'L' to reach work: leaving from the east, passing through the center of the city, and returning to the state, but northward bound. And, of course, this travel takes them at least an hour in time. There are some who take 2 and even 2 and a half hours to reach work."

He claims that the families concentrate their resources on transportation on their members who are working. There is a directly proportional relationship between the contribution of income from the various family members and use of the more expensive facilities.

The average expenditure for transportation represents 27 percent of the mean wage of the 520 families (each with an average of six members) polled, "the less expense, the longer travel time, but the reverse ratio does not always occur in the opposite direction (the greater expense, the shorter time)."

Navarro notes that the various investigations made have caused them to observe several phenomena, for example, some families spend more to send their children to school than on the school itself; and some parents decide not to send their children to school for lack of transportation, or because the educational center is located outside of the urban community. Another no less important matter is that the purchases of items needed in the household are made by "those who go out," so as thereby to save a little.

Navarro points out that the distribution or organization of the industries almost always depends on profitability criteria, which are nearly always to the detriment of the working class interests; because the factories are located at one end of the city, and the workers live in the other, and the worker spends a very large amount of his time being transported. It is not uncommon to see major industries in all parts of the city.

Added to the foregoing, consideration must be given to the transportation itself: the crowds for boarding and taking one of the types, and the waiting time for boarding them, particularly at peak hours.

Even on holidays and weekends, it is not difficult to observe that some sections of the city, almost always near the Metro and bus stations, are used more than on any work day. This holds true for Chapultepec, Insurgentes, Basilica, and Tacuba.

2909

CSO: 3248/263

BRIEFS

CT URGES DEBT MORATORIUM PREPARATIONS--The Labor Congress [CT] has claimed that, if the concept of a social and economic policy against the crisis, channeling 50 percent of the budget abroad and limiting opportunities for growth, prevails, "we shall be forced to prepare for anything, including a possible moratorium." It cautioned that the recovery of the wage "is the backbone for strengthening the domestic market." In a report submitted by the organized labor sector's leading agency, at the second working session of the PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] 13th National Assembly, it also warned that, if the drop in the level of wages earned by workers continues, "we shall be caught in a toboggan slide of economic depression or hyperinflation." [Excerpt] [Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 4 Mar 87 p 13] 2903

DURAZO CASE WITNEESES FAIL TO APPEAR--A new hearing that was to be held in the 26th court of penal proceedings, during the trial against the former police chief, Arturo Durazo Moreno, was cancelled, because five witnesses for the prosecution who were due to appear did not show up. Jose Octavio Barragan Avila, Andres Guzman Martinez, Roberto Martinez, and Guillermo Casillas, who had served in the auxiliary license office of the Coyoacan delegation during the Durazo administration, under orders from Salvador Neri Guerrero, and Andres Guzman Martinez, who had worked in the Cuajimalpa auxiliary license office, are the ones who disregarded the court order from public minister Juan Miranda Collado. At noon, after nearly 2 hours of waiting, it was announced that the hearing would not be held because the witnesses had not obeyed the summonses, some because they had moved their residences and were not located. It was also noted that, starting next Wednesday, 18 March, there will be some very important confrontations between persons, to end the trial of the former police chief, including Jose Gonzalez, one of the leading prosecution witnesses, banker Manuel Espinosa Iglesias, Manuel Zuzunaga Guzman, attorney for 14 auxiliary police commanders, Manuel Espinosa Ruigarcia, and Daniel Molina Miranda, Durazo's former private secretary. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 25-A] 2909

CHIHUAHUA ARMS PURCHASES FROM ISRAEL--Chihuahua, Chih., 12 March--With an investment of 3 billion pesos, the state police will be provided with high-caliber weapons and Usi submachine guns from Israel, to reinforce the security forces in the entire state. This announcement was made by the state attorney general, Mauro Antonio Rodriguez Leegi, who remarked that all the weaponry will be here

within 4 months, so as to put high-level mechanisms for permanent surveillance into operation. He stressed that, although the equipment available to the police forces is still insufficient, the Israeli devices will unquestionably lend the police forces a larger capacity. Meanwhile, he emphasized that the installation of 65 new pickup trucks for the judicial police represents progress in the state governments' program to modernize the security system in all municipalities. He added that, within a few days, the state judicial and municipal police academy will also start operating, to train all the personnel from all parts of the state. Rodriguez Leegi announced that a sum of 100 million pesos will be appropriated to support the academy, reiterating the fact that the training of new members would augment the human resources, because they are currently operating with a shortage of at least 200 members. Finally, he pointed out that the purchases being made from Israel include laboratory equipment, such as special microscopes for expert activities, as well as other accessories required for the preliminary investigations. [Text] [Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p 11] 2909

CSO: 3248/264

LOPEZ DISCUSSES FSLN FOREIGN RELATIONS AGENDA

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 87 p 3

[Interview with Julio Lopez, head of the International Relations Department of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, by Arqueles Morales; date and place not given]

[Text] The scene is repeated over and over. It might be on a street in Tokyo, in the heat of a broiling summer, or in a square in remote Helsinki, during a bone-chilling winter. The demand is the same everywhere in the world--peace for Nicaragua! Hands off Central America! What is the reason for the phenomenon of solidarity our cause has touched off all over the planet, centering world attention on the situation in one small country?

Julio Lopez, head of the International Relations Department of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, gave us an answer. "Rather than solidarity, we talk of the converging interests of the struggle of the Nicaraguan people and those of the struggles and desires of other peoples. We promote Nicaragua's political relations with the world on the basis of a real, existing potential, through which wills are united--sometimes those of governments, in other cases those of parties, and sometimes those of social sectors which see in the Nicaraguan revolution points of convergence with their own ideas and political motivations, their moral values."

And if throughout the world solidarity, or the convergence of political interests, with Nicaragua is amazingly active, the conflict between our country and the U.S. imperialists is in the front ranks in Latin America.

Julio Lopez reflected that "no special talent is needed to see that very important changes have come about in Latin America and the Caribbean. That there is greater political independence than 20 years ago, and also a higher cultural level and more social and political awareness, cannot be denied.

"What is happening? This recent development on the subcontinent coincided with the emergence of the Sandinist People's Revolution, which from the beginning hoisted the banner of political independence, national sovereignty and the principle of self-determination for the peoples. What is certain is that the masses on this continent, and even the governments, identify and rapidly agree with what we are doing in our country, for a complex of reasons.

"I will give you a specific example. We Nicaraguans cannot forget that one of the first official statements by Peruvian President Alan Garcia gave prominence to Nicaragua. He said that the dignity of the continent is being defended here. This means that there is an appreciation in Peru of the fact that our struggle coincides with the legitimate political interests of the Latin American peoples."

[Question] It is true that an awareness that our adversary in the political, economic and social realms is U.S. imperialist has been maturing. But didn't the role of the United States in the Falklands war contribute to a great extent to polarizing this awareness?

[Answer] I would say that the Falklands war was one chapter or factor which served to give greater fluidity to this tendency which is emerging in Latin America, but this does not mean that it was decisive, nor was the Nicaraguan revolution totally so. Obviously, from the beginning Nicaragua has raised the banner of peace as a political dictate, an imperative for coexistence in the period in which mankind lives today, and not just as a slogan. And it is no accident that this position later converged with the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and the Support Group, whose undertakings coincide with the concept of principles found in our international policy.

[Question] The word peace is repeated daily in the widest variety of languages on this earth. However, establishing peace in the various sectors of confrontation is extremely difficult. How can our concept of peace, applied strictly to Nicaragua and Central America, be combined with the global peace to which mankind aspires?

[Answer] Very simply, we are developing the search for the path to peace, negotiation, a political solution, as the basic principle of our foreign policy.

And this channel which has been opened up by the state and party policy of the Nicaraguan revolution is rapidly converging with another tendency coming from the rest of the continent, urging this same need. It is undeniable, moreover, that in Western Europe, in this fascinating world of scientific and technical development and in these days of the nuclear era, faced with the dangers which must be faced if mankind is to continue to survive, there has in recent years developed an unprecedented struggle for peace, for disarmament, for negotiation and detente. In this nuclear era, security for the future requires denuclearization. It was normal, then, that our position would find its counterpart in public opinion in these countries. With the nuclear problem there and the problem of a war of intervention of a more conventional nature here, basically there is a common concern.

[Question] We have been the recipients of a great flow of moral and material solidarity. In all of the forums to which our government or our party have access, we appeal for this solidarity. But what are we doing in return for the struggles of other peoples?

Julio Lopez suggested that we pause to enjoy a cup of coffee. During the break we recalled the fact that in 1980, President Daniel Ortega was the first

Central American chief executive to travel to various African countries, carrying not only our message, but also the message of solidarity with these brotherly peoples.

[Answer] In the international forums, we have not only pled our own cause but have involved ourselves in all the subjects of interest to mankind. I could show you a list covering a single period of sessions in the United Nations Assembly in which we, in our speeches, agreed with the positions of an impressive number of countries in the world more than 80 times.

[Question] But are we pursuing solidarity in the interior of the country? Are we perhaps developing a sense of internationalism in the people?

After reminding us that the mass organizations are pursuing activities to promote solidarity with the peoples of the world who are struggling for their freedom, Lopez added: "This question is difficult to answer because of the fact that Nicaragua is a small country, embedded in the heart of a region which was practically unknown until a short time ago. It is a backward country in which a people's revolution triumphed and which because of the stubbornness of the imperialists soon became the focus of attention for the world, with a kind of moral authority.

"Currently there is not a single country in the world, including the aggressor countries, where there are not demonstrations of solidarity with Nicaragua. It is, then, a very difficult and complex task to organize solidarity efforts in this country which is faced with an interventionist war. However, I believe that the most important thing is to know that these governments, these political and social forces which are supporting Nicaragua, are telling us that the greatest evidence of solidarity we can give them is to guarantee the triumphant advance of our struggle. And I believe that this is very true--victoriously ensuring the defense of our independence and our sovereignty."

[Question] Does this mean that if the revolutionary process simply survives, this is a way of pursuing solidarity?

Lopez answered eagerly: "I do not like the concept of simple survival, because really it is a question of the complex development of resistance, of advance while winning. But apart from this, it is equally important to translate into the awareness of our people the will, the understanding and the practical development of solidarity with the forces in the world which are offering their support to Nicaragua. As a government and as a party, we have an integral vision of the world."

We interrupted our interlocutor.

[Question] Are we not perhaps running the risk that the exacerbated confrontation with the United States will somewhat obscure the vision and understanding of other phenomena in the world?

[Answer] This is a real risk. And more than a risk, it is an unjust imposition, in the sense that we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of failing to understand the main problem facing the revolution, which is aggression.

But I believe that the aggression has never prevented us from seeing the reality of the world in which we live or from working with that outer world. It is clear that without aggression, our country would have a better opportunity to express its solidarity, which is one of our principles. The truth of the matter is that we would rather not concern ourselves so much with the Reagan administration, but reality imposes it upon us. However, it has not by far become our principle strategic goal.

I also believe that we ourselves--and in this the media bear a portion of the responsibility--are not adequately projecting other efforts of the revolution, other struggles which are being waged in the world and which are of substantive interest to the Sandinist people's revolution. However, I believe that if there is an aspect typical of our intentions and our policy, it is the universal vision we have, although in the eyes of some, it may give the impression of being limited for the moment by our clash with the imperialists.

[Question] What are the basic concerns in the foreign policy of the revolution?

Julio Lopez answered with confidence.

[Answer] We are concerned about whether Europe and the United States will respond positively to Gorbachev's most recent suggestion concerning separate discussions on medium-range missiles; about whether the international community will support the principles set forth in the joint declaration made by Rajiv Gandhi and Gorbachev; about whether a solution will really be found to this fatal dilemma in which the Third World economies, particularly those of Latin America are plunged; about whether the conscience of man today will become imbued with the need to set aside totally the concept of finding the solution to problems in force; and about whether we can make international law the norm in international relations.

And I am not only speaking of today's international law, but the need to adapt international law to the needs of a human race which is moving toward the year 2000. We are interested in the phenomenon wherein men of different beliefs in practical, social and political life, for example the Christians and the Marxists, can advance together in the struggle for peace, progress and dignity. We are concerned about whether the Palestine Liberation Organization will succeed in its reunification, in order to carry the just struggle of that people forward. We are interested in knowing if Israel will abandon the occupied territories in Gaza and Jordan. We are concerned about and working to ensure that Iran and Iraq will put an end to the war in which they are engaged. We are concerned about making Central America and the Caribbean into a zone of peace. We are particularly interested in seeing the Contadora Group crystallize its political proposals. We are concerned about the dictatorships in Chile and Paraguay, the struggle of the Salvadoran people, the achievement of true freedom for the Haitian people, and progress in the liberation struggles in Namibia and South Africa. As these few examples will show you, the scope of our interests is the broad spectrum of the problems of mankind.

5157

CSO:3248/260

CST LEADER ON ECONOMIC CRISIS

PA082341 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 4 Apr 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Price increases in the official sector as well as in the black market caused the crisis of high personnel turnover during the first 3 months of this year due to the serious deterioration in purchasing power.

Although there were changes in salaries during the months of October, November, and December, and some incentives were granted based on seniority and merit, which helped to achieve some personnel stability in the production sector, the salary increase in December was not very meaningful due to the increase in the following months of the official prices of meat, eggs, and poultry.

The preceding statement was made by Rene Bonilla, national leader of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers [CST], to EL NUEVO DIARIO. Bonilla said that only two of the National Labor and Wages Organization System salary scales were modified in December. The salary increase was only between 2,000 and 4,000 cordobas.

The Basket

In February, a worker from group 1 was earning a 10,650-cordoba salary. For example, he needed to work 2 months to purchase at the official price, the basic basket composed of 11 [as published] articles: rice, beans, sugar, oil, salt, eggs, pinole, soap and matches, which cost 20,615 cordobas.

A worker from group 3 needed to work 38 days to buy the same basic basket at official prices since he only earns 16,350 cordobas; most of them are laborers.

Due to this situation, in TECNICSA alone 709 workers resigned, in the food industry, 68 percent left and only 53 percent joined this industry. The turnover rate is 47 percent. In the metal products industry the turnover rate was approximately 33 percent.

Incentives Decrease

Bonilla said that despite this situation, some companies worked with half of their personnel, organizing special shifts in which very skilled workers are

getting very good incentives. For example, at the Milca Bottling Co., very skilled personnel were selected and a shift that works periodically has been organized, obtaining very good production since they do in 4 hours what others would do in 8 hours.

Regarding the answer given on the low salaries, the CST leader said that they have proposed, first, to establish as a priority the supply of basic staples to the workers of those companies that produce goods for export and that produce basic staples for the people, since it is not possible to supply goods to all work centers.

They also suggested that the piecework system should be established in the productive enterprises because this gives workers the chance to earn more and produce more based on their effort. In addition, the CST leader said that workers should get more material and moral incentives.

More Organization

Bonilla said that the incentive policy should be accompanied by a better organization of the work to avoid increase in the cost of products.

In this sense, he said that he agrees with an aggressive incentives policy—as does the Labor Ministry [MINTRAB]. "Fifth-percent incentives should be paid, according to the company's real capacity, without ceilings. They should be given according to the worker's production," he suggested.

Bonilla recalled that incentives are a strong instrument and should not be limited since the MINTRAB only recognizes 100 percent. [as published] Experience shows that limiting the incentives restricts the workers' productive capacity.

He added that incentives should be paid based on productivity, independently from the basic salary established in the National Labor and Wages Organization System, and should be linked to the surplus production and quality of the production.

The labor leader also emphasized the importance of the form and system of paying incentives because workers should get them in due time. This must be organized according to the characteristics of production.

"When incentives are not paid in due time, when a worker does not get them because he failed to comply with the goal one day, this reduces motivation; therefore, an effort must be made to overcome those problems," Bonilla said.

He added that incentives should be linked to labor discipline.

Regarding compliance with production goals, he noted that there are economic brigades which are heroic, and mentioned Intercasa in the metal products industry (Granada-Nandaime) which has three rotating brigades.

In addition to achieving the goal during the normal work shift, they exceed the goal by making an incredible effort. In January, they exceeded their goal by 106 percent, based on revolutionary consciousness.

Finally, regarding the supply of main staples for workers, Bonilla said that the aim is to improve the supply by integrating more production into MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade]. MICOIN should not give more subsidies, but rather, it should get more production based on a more aggressive negotiation policy.

/8309

CSO: 3248/292

NO NEW HOUSING PLANNED FOR MANAGUA IN 1987

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The CRAH [Regional Committee for Housing Affairs] for Region III is handling some 40 cases daily "because the housing shortage in Managua has become worse."

The report presented by comrade Perfecto Arroliga--one of the members of CRAH--added that the petitions are from both tenants and owners. "Some complain because they are being evicted and others because they want their houses."

The official reports indicate that the homeowners pressure in many ways to evict the tenants. They cut off their water and electricity, change the locks on the doors, take a strip of zinc off the roof, and do not acknowledge rent payments.

[words missing] in the district come to air their opinions at the CRAH. It has two methods: administrative and judicial.

Administratively, agreements are made between the parties--for example, to return the housing or rooms in the tenants' possession.

Arroliga commented: "These petitions stem from the housing shortage. As you know, they cannot plan to construct houses in Managua in 1987 because of the war."

The agreements might mean that the tenant continues occupying the house because he has nowhere else to go. He might also be given a deadline.

However, if the owner does not agree, he can resort to the judicial method at the same CRAH where Arroliga represents the Sandinist Defense Committees.

If the finding is adverse, the owner can appeal to the minister of housing who heads a superior court. If this court confirms the finding of the CRAH, the only recourse left is the Court of Appeals of Managua.

During the year, some 8,000 petitions from tenants and homeowners were recorded. Between January and February 1987 alone, there were 340 requests for the return of housing, according to Perfecto Arroliga.

So far this year, there have been some 25 inspections. A list of requests and petitions is checked daily. There are also consultations in the afternoon at the CRAH.

There are some 140,000 housing units in Managua which is very few for the population of the capital. There are people who live in really subhuman conditions due to the shortage that the Yankee mercenary war imposes.

To give an example of the difficulties, Perfecto Arroliga said that 30 percent of the housing in Tipitapa is rented. In other words, their owners do not live in them.

Arroliga said that people come to the CRAH from Tipitapa as well as from San Rafael del Sur, Mateare, and Ticuantepe to complain about housing shortages.

Arroliga concluded that, even in districts like Santo Domingo de Las Sierritas in Managua, there are many requests to rent housing.

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CSO: 3248/255

MEAT CONSUMPTION QUOTAS SET FOR MILITARY

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] The EPS [Popular Sandinist Army] is complying with the norms for meat consumption set by MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform] to protect the cattle herd. The two institutions together began to develop a plan to quickly permit self-supply of meat and fresh foods. The chief of the Central Rearguard, Captain Carlos Zarruck, reported this yesterday.

This philosophy, complemented by sanctions of military who violate the law, would make it possible to maintain and even reduce food costs in the future. At this time, costs are about 836 cordobas per day per soldier in combat training and 996 cordobas for soldiers in guerrilla warfare on the fronts.

In a long interview granted to BARRICADA, Capt Zarruck pointed out the plan which began with an evaluation, region by region, of the productive capacities of state enterprises, cooperatives, and private food producers.

It cannot be said that the soldier has extraordinary benefits despite the priority that the National Directorate of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has given defense. He emphasized that we live under the conditions permitted by the shortages of this war economy.

Zarruck showed per-capita consumption figures negotiated with MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] which are not always guaranteed. He indicated that the EPS negotiated the supply of 2 pounds of beef per person per month. There is a total monthly quota of 6.5 pounds of meat including pork, chicken, and fresh fish.

The EPS has already established annual quotas for meat consumption in compliance with the provisions of the Law to Protect the Cattle Herd. In general, 10,000 calves, 750,000 chickens, 13,000 pigs, and an unspecified quantity of fish are needed to feed the troops each year.

These quotas which might seem high are equivalent to 3.4 ounces daily, almost the minimum necessary calories and protein that a soldier requires. Capt Carlos Zarruck, chief of the Central Rearguard of the EPS, stated this yesterday.

The supply of food, clothing, and articles for personal use, and the way the armed forces confront the obligation of self-supply based on the guidelines of the FSLN Governing Plan this year were topics BARRICADA discussed yesterday with the chief of the Central Rearguard of the EPS.

We are complying with the orders of the minister of defense. We have negotiated the supply of beef in Region III with the General Directorate of Livestock for 2 pounds per person. We have agreed with MICOIN on the supply of chicken, eggs, fish, and articles of personal use.

Zarruck said that it is incorrect when someone thinks that there are privileges for EPS officers, for example.

We do not have access to the CAT. He also indicated that it must be recalled that the officers, classes, and soldiers have family.

In conjunction with MIDINRA, the EPS began to develop the plan for self-supply. In its first stage, it attempts to identify the sources of food production. In its second stage, after designing a strategy, it will evaluate the installed capacity, region by region, in order to confront production.

The EPS is going to work with cooperatives, private businessmen, or state enterprises to encourage production. If it is necessary to enter into mixed enterprises, we will do so but with the objective that the enterprises be profitable and productive.

Zarruck indicated that there are already experiments in Region II (Leon and Chinandega). Gardens have been created around the military units for self-supply and even raising dairy cattle.

It will be necessary to study even the type of soil where the military units are located in order to be able to grow the crop that is going to produce. He added: "This year we are going to begin at conservative levels because we do not have much."

The MINT has made more progress in production to feed the troops and at times sells to the EPS.

The organization of meat consumption will begin next month in Region II and Region IV although the established quota totals 6.5 pounds per person per month of beef, chicken, fish, and pork as in Managua. Capt Zarruck denies that there are incentives of privileges for the military.

This consumption is equivalent to 104 ounces per month or 3.4 ounces per day. He emphasized that this is not excessive.

He then explained that while the plan is being developed, the EPS in the regions buys from producers who already have a territorial supply network.

However, the problem is not just meat. It is true that officers receive one pair of boots per year and two uniforms per month in the Pacific zone but they wear them for work.

Zarruck stated that there is a section for military trade here, but MICOIN does not guarantee everything. The section chief can buy shampoo or civilian clothes for children and adults but they assign us quotas proportional to other sectors.

CAT products are sold to them here but we do not guarantee paper towels, for example. We sell them one deodorant, one shoe polish, and one toothpaste every 2 months, two bath soaps and two laundry soaps per month, or one civilian outfit and one pair of shoes per year.

There is also a proportional distribution of domestic appliances. The EPS has a quota that we distribute to the outstanding and vanguard soldiers.

The costs of combat training for soldiers in the SMP [Patriotic Military Service] really include the basic needs of a soldier, the chief of Rearguard of the EPS added.

They are given two deodorants, one laundry soap and one bath soap, one roll of toilet paper, four razor blades per month, and their uniforms and equipment. However, an officer on the general staff, for example, has to buy the underwear and socks that are given to the SMP as part of their needs.

Zarruck does not deny that the priority for defense defines the need for supplies for the EPS. However, the Ministry of Industry, for example, cannot sell more than it is going to distribute proportionally to other sectors.

It must be remembered, he stated, that the idea of all this is to reduce costs. In this way, the EPS contributes to fulfillment of the 1987 Governing Plan. We are going to start opening complexes or enterprises for self-supply and not be a burden on the state but improve conditions based on the profitability of the food production projects.

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CSO: 3248/255

PROBLEMAS OF DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS NOTED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Guillermo Jimenez is the national president of the FES now. Until 2 August 1986, date of his demobilization, he worked with BLI Farabundo Marti in mountainous zones of Nueva Guinea, Zelaya Central, and Waslala. BARRICADA discussed with him, a demobilized soldier and student leader, the difficulties demobilized soldiers have rejoining civilian life.

He stated: "As soon as you come, you get sick. You get malaria and some even suffer from hepatitis. When you are demobilized, you have to worry about medical checkups." He stated that this is not the most important thing. In his opinion, working and being trained represent their two main concerns.

Jimenez stated: "You acquire a spirit of independence. I felt the need not to depend on my parents and to contribute to the family." The other thing is "to study in order not to remain behind." Thousands of demobilized soldiers throughout the country are beginning to take remedial courses.

He said: "The course is like a blow. It is heavy and too accelerated." He added: "There are some who have withdrawn. They cannot stand studying from Monday to Sunday after working." However, he criticized the fact that the demand is not the same. He insisted: "In Managua the course lasts 3 months and they have class every day. In the rest of the regions, there are days off or the course only lasts for 2 months. There is no consistency in this program."

In his opinion, the MED [Ministry of Education] should define "how it is going to attract them, enroll them, and bring them up to the level of the rest of the country." He felt that the regional Commissions of Support to the Soldiers can greatly help the national solution. He explained: "The problem many times is one of information. Before they are demobilized, we do not know how many are going to study and at what levels so that it is very difficult to organize these courses in time."

He said that one solution could be to organize the demobilization in time. He stated: "The problem is that they are informed just days before. They gave us barely 2 days notice to fill out information sheets and evaluate all the troops. This affects their subsequent labor or student integration."

He stressed that another problem is when they try for a scholarship. He stated: "It is said that the demobilized soldiers have priority but we have problems in higher education. They have placed many of the boys in higher education. The situation is that the CNES [National Council of Higher Education] cannot use the same academic requirements for a demobilized soldier because a normal student will always have better grades." In his opinion, this should change.

It has been almost 2 years since the first demobilization. It is necessary to analyze some flaws and offer new solutions. He said that the members of the student organization as students have the responsibility of solving the problems and concerns. "It is necessary to give priority to everything involved with military service, not just concern ourselves with their mobilization but also their return," concluded Guillermo Jimenez. Yesterday he was Sandino's pistol and today he is a student leader.

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CSO: 3248/255

RESERVE BATTALIONS PREPARATIONS DESCRIBED

PA101540 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Apr 87 p 5

[By Alberto Reyes]

[Excerpts] Cem Raiti, III Region—BARRICADA is visiting the shooting range where artillerymen are trained in this military training center south of Mateare.

Lieutenant Marvin Correa, an EPS official, watches the exercises by one of the many reserve groups—this time it is Battalion 32-22.

"The students' assimilation is 80 percent," he indicates. Others are practicing in a neighboring shooting range with a C-57 cannon, and Lieutenant Juan Antonio Reyes asserted that the students' assimilation is good because personnel have been carefully selected.

Specialties such as artilleryman, communications officer, or sapper demand an academic background of at least primary school; it is even better when the soldier has completed more than the third year of secondary education and is familiar with the coordinates.

Stepped Up Information

Captain Juan Lorenzo Hernandez explains in general terms the plans to prepare the reserve forces for combat. The economic efforts to supply adequate food are great, the specialties taught are many, and the ideological work is serious--above all for the sectors with common deviations such as alcoholism and other vices. An overall effort is exerted.

The EPS assumes an economic mobilization aid payment of 22,500 cordobas per month to all those who are self-employed; taking into consideration that 80 percent of the men come from that social sector and condition, the expenses are considerable.

The plan for the troops includes 240 hours of theory and practice, plus all the knowledge on military courtesy, closed formation, commands, etc. The course is normally completed in 4 months.

The commander of Battalion 32-34 is less than happy. Lieutenant Guerra prides himself in 100-percent completion rate, in the medical attention guaranteed by MINSA [Ministry of Health], and the party forces' support encouraging the troops to participate in all the tasks.

There is a recess, and Santiago Hernandez, an employee of the Ministry of Foreign Cooperation, offers to answer a political question.

"We cannot separate our preparation from what takes place in Central America. The FMLN has cornered Duarte (a group listens); U.S. imperialism has been politically and diplomatically defeated in all international organizations. Now the United States has organized the largest military maneuvers in Honduras under the name "Solid Shield." Consequently, the situation is critical, and it is easy to see that the conditions are ripe for an intervention in Central America."

Napoleon Arroliga, a marksman of the 2d company of battalion 32-34, decisively states: "The United States wants to come here, but it has not been able to... that is why we are here, to prepare all our battalions and defeat its forces."

"I am self-employed, and I am here because it is my duty," he said.

Classless Society

Professionals, street vendors, factory workers, technicians, and students from all the social sectors are here. They live in America Uno, Villa Austria, Rubenia, Venezuela neighborhood, USSR neighborhood, Georgino Andrade, and Veracruz.

They withstand the dust storms, scorching sun, and cold nights in the huts. This gives an idea of the heroism developed by Sandino's cubs in the mountain. "I believe that the most important thing here is that we are testing the classless society that we will build," Salvador Mendez, a representative of a cinema network, states.

He adds: "We can tell those living in the capital that their lions are here, preparing ourselves to defend our den."

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CSO: 3248/291

SOLDIERS DISCUSS MILITARY DUTY

PA090032 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Prepare for combat!

The alert order goes from the unit commander to the soldier in charge of the batteries who in turn gives it to the crew leader who then waves a little red flag and a yellow one. As of that moment everybody knows what to do in each of the positions.

A mock air attack is taking place against one of the circular defense units on the outskirts of Managua. These units are being trained to face any possible type of military aggression against the capital. Antiaircraft weapons are the key element in this activity.

Alfonso Centeno, an 18-year-old youth from Managua, has been manning a .23-mm Duplex antiaircraft cannon for the past 8 months. He aims the gun and sits on the left side. He receives the data on the target from his antiaircraft sight operator Marvin Blanco Castillo.

Alfonso explained: "Suppose an airplane comes into view right now. Marvin gives me the data, the location of the target, and I aim at it and fire." Alfonso finds that "it is not difficult to man this piece of artillery," but the truth is that it requires good sight, good aim, and concentration.

When it is time to fire, the Duplex is let loose from the GAS 66 truck pulling the cannon, and then the two rear tires of the cannon come down until they touch the ground. The cannon is then ready to be fired. Two ammunition loaders in charge of supplying the weapon with ammunition quickly place themselves at each side of the cannon.

These two young men, like the first two, are members of the Patriotic Military Service, SMP, and form part of the truck's crew headed by Leonel Rivera, also 18. Rivera also has 8 months of experience. During that time he has been loader on the right side of the cannon, the aimer, and anti-aircraft sight operator. His little flags are a signal that will replace command voices at a given moment, when the roaring of the cannons does not permit the fighters to hear voices.

The Yankees Must Not Catch Us by Surprise

Leonel said: "This is the first time that I have been mobilized for a defense task, but I understand clearly what my role is." Leonel also commented on the threat that the current U.S. military maneuvers in Honduras represent.

He noted: "Those movements make us more alert and make us train better every day so that we will not be taken by surprise."

In a few minutes the exercise concludes and each fighter returns to his original position. Get ready to march, the unit commander shouts. Everybody starts running: The antiaircraft cannon is put in an upward position again and Rivera raises his flags to call the GAZ 66 [as published] to approach quickly until it again hooks up with the piece of artillery.

The record time for combat-readiness moves is 20 seconds and for reinitiating the march 30 seconds. "Generally speaking," the fighters noted, "we do it as fast as possible in these drills."

There is another group of fighters who, like these soldiers, is responsible for guaranteeing the defense at various strategic points near the capital. They belong to the so-called Antiaircraft Defense of Objectives unit and they have their positions west of Sandino Airport.

Wilfrido Castro, a 17-year-old fighter with 14 months in the SMP said: "All of us here belong to the SMP also, and we have tracked and armored vehicles." He believes "it is necessary to be here, especially now when imperialism is again surrounding us with ships and troops."

Wilfredo believes that the Yankee maneuvers, "are a way to intimidate the people to keep the people from advancing and developing economically." He added: "We are all ready to fight, and when the people see us here their morale improves."

We Are All Part of the Defense

A big cloud of dust is raised when a T-55 tank manned by three young soldiers emerges from its refuge and rapidly advances over the rocks. Right behind it comes some sort of tank, but one that has tires. It is called the BRT-152, and it is used to transport troops.

Another armored vehicle follows. It is the BTC-4--a tank trailer. On the roof of this vehicle there are some long tubes that serve as ladders, bridges, and also as observation posts.

All these young men joined the SMP as fighters in the armored vehicles section. One of them is Douglas Mendoza, 19. He has been on duty in the Managua area for 18 months. He was born in San Rafael del Sur, but he has been assigned this defense unit in the capital.

As he digs a trench with a shovel, he said: "Our presence here is important because we are defending the people. This is what is most important." Douglas believes that the construction of the Olof Palme Conventions Center and the cleaning effort yesterday in Managua are also vital for peace.

He said: "We can fight the enemy not only with rifles but also with this kind of work. We are all committed to the same objective. In what concerns us, we are prepared to expel the Yankee troops if they try to enter Managua.

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CSO: 3248/291

NICARAGUA

BRIEFS

COFFEE, COTTON EXPORTS--Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca has told newsmen that the price of coffee continues to decrease significantly. He also reported that the highest coffee price recorded yesterday was \$101 a quintal. Martinez Cuenca added that at this time, 66 percent of the product that can be exported has been sold at an average price of \$101.90 a quintal. This is approximately 532,796 quintal of coffee and represents exchange revenues of some \$97 million. Martinez Cuenca reiterated that Nicaragua will lose some 24 million [currency not specified] due to the drop in the price of coffee in the international market. Cotton faces a situation similar to that of coffee. The possibilities of selling cotton in the international market have been reduced because of quality problems. A contract with the USSR for more than 18,000 cotton bales was suspended because the cotton did not meet minimum quality requirements. Revenues from cotton exports could reach \$38 million. Thus far, \$19.2 million have already been received. This is equivalent to the export of 93,000 bales of cotton. [Excerpts] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Apr 87 p 12] /8309

CSO: 3248/292

NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL ON LACK OF FAMILY PLANNING

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p A-10

[Text] As an example of the lack of effective family planning, couples in the Peruvian jungle have an average of nine children, too many for national reality. This is due to lack of education, according to Dr Americo Fernandez Rincon, technical director of the National Population Council, yesterday.

In comparison, he reported, the average number of offspring in developed countries is about 3.5 even though there are much better conditions of well-being and satisfaction of primary needs.

Population Program

He also announced that Peru will soon have a National Population Program for the first time. The following sectors are drawing it up: Health, Agriculture, Labor, Housing, Interior, Economy and Finance, and Education as well as the INP [National Institute of Planning], Joint Command of the Armed Forces, INE [National Institute of Statistics], IPSS [Peruvian Institute of Social Security], the Peruvian Church, Medical Association, CIPUL [Confederation of Peruvian Liberal Professional and University Institutions], and representatives of the peasant towns and poor urban developments.

Representatives of those groups met yesterday at the headquarters of the National Population Council in order to exchange ideas and explain the guidelines for their work. Within 3 weeks, each one of the sectors will present its final report on the population policy in order to draft the final program.

Education

Fernandez said that the basic actions are aimed at education since family planning and all the aspects related to a population policy cannot be carried out unless there is complete knowledge of all the factors inherent in that policy which includes responsible parenthood.

He concluded: "Our population should grow in accord with the social, economic, and cultural development of the country."

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CSO: 3348/242

PUNO PEASANT ENTERPRISE REFORM PROBLEMS

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p A-16

[Text] Puno, 12 Mar--The restructuring of peasant enterprises is more complicated than was thought.

In a certain way, it endangers the development of Puno agriculture due to the problems that exist in the three sectors that have been formed in some enterprises.

In a communique recently, Agrarian Region 21 made a strong appeal to the new owners to "take possession as soon as possible of the land turned over to their business management under threat of losing their rights."

On the farms affected by the redistribution, the old enterprise turns over the land ceded without any problem but--here lies the problem--with the people that worked on that sector.

Since those people no longer receive their usual wage, they retain the cattle that were in their care and refuse admission to the new owners.

Ask For Social Rights

Those workers were advised by a lawyer from the Central Organization of Peasant Enterprises. They are preparing to initiate a suit, demanding their social rights through the Puno Regional Office of Labor.

There have been clear cases very near Puno like the SAIS [Social Interest Agricultural Association] Vilque which has disappeared and given way to the CAT Cayrani and Totorani.

When trying to interview the old leaders of that SAIS, it was reported that that leadership no longer existed. This will surely affect its creditors.

A similar thing has happened in the SAIS Buenavista where the new leaders have removed the old owners practically bodily. All this hurts production in that sector because there is no longer anyone administering it.

The second paragraph of the communique states: "In case of noncompliance with that ordered, Agrarian Region 21, through the Line Directorate of Agrarian Reform and Rural Settlement, will decide to turn over unoccupied land to other communities."

Since there is resistance to having those areas occupied, a confrontation might begin between peasants. The agrarian authority should avoid this by any means, passing the necessary provisions.

This is the situation in Puno agriculture with the mentioned restructuring of the peasant enterprises. This work depends on many factors including the resentments and old squabbles that flourish in the heat of change.

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CSO: 3348/242

BRIEFS

ELECTROCENTRO POWER PROBLEMS—Huancaayo, 10 Mar—The frequent power failures in large sectors of this city are not only due to terrorist action but also to a lack of interest by Electrocentro officials. It does not even have a fuse to repair minor breakdowns. For lack of a fuse, large populated sectors like Millotingo, La Florida, and Pio Pata were without electricity for 10 hours recently despite the complaints of the residents. The constant power failures cause serious trouble for housewives and also hurt small industry, trade, and work in public offices. One resident who is an electrician revealed that the last power failure was due to the explosion of a fuse at the intersection of 13 de Noviembre and Huancavelica. When other residents telephoned Electrocentro, its technicians indicated that they could not make the repairs for lack of fuses. They said that they should have "a little patience." One housewife stated: "This is the limit! Not only do they not take care of our complaints but they ask us to be patient until a problem that should not exist is solved." She added that it is unacceptable for Electrocentro not to have a part as simple as a fuse. They should be kept in "stock" to avoid subsequent power failures that are prolonged by carelessness and neglect. Another resident said that the interruptions in power are due to the deplorable condition of the electrical distribution system (air cables) throughout the city. The enterprise itself has recognized that the cables have deteriorated but, as one bank employee said, apparently passiveness and lack of interest have taken over its officials and technical personnel. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p A-15] 7717

TACNA ELECTRONIC COMPLEX—Because of the low prices of raw materials on the international markets, countries like Peru should export more manufactured products—that is, products with value added. Various sectors in our country are making efforts to increase nontraditional exports. One is the electronics industry. Although it is a newly installed business, its rate of development should be pointed out. This branch that is devoted to the manufacture and assembly of components, equipment, calculators, etc., includes some 37 enterprises mainly in the city of Tacna, providing employment for specialized personnel. Now this sector is considered one of the most promising for exports and, therefore, a source of foreign currency which is so necessary now. Its strategic nature which has been clearly demonstrated in other countries in the region should also be noted. The era of countries that only export raw materials is over. The businessmen say that it is necessary, therefore, to get into all fields like electronics which also offer

opportunities for technological improvement and scientific research. The great multiplying effect of this activity should not be forgotten since its products are widely used and vital to other productive and economic activities. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p B-13] 7717

NUCLEAR COMPLEX JULY OPENING—The president of Argentina, Dr Raul Alfonsin, will be invited to the inauguration of the Huarangal Nuclear Complex set for July. This news was provided yesterday by the president of IPEN [Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy], Eng Guillermo Florez Pinedo, shortly before leaving for Havana. The total cost of the project, including the power 10 reactor, is more than \$100 million. Florez Pinedo referred to the progress of the project, indicating that extensive safety measures are being taken during its construction. He also indicated that the program to mine uranium in Macusani (Puno) will begin with an initial production of 500 tons per year. This requires an initial investment of \$30 million. He estimated that production can reach 2,000 tons per year. Florez Pinedo went to Havana at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Nuclear Energy for the inauguration of the food radiation (preservation) plant constructed with Soviet technology. He will sign an agreement there to exchange technicians and information. He will also visit the construction project for the power 300 energy plant that Cuba is building. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Mar 87 p A-8] 7717

4,560 PEASANT COMMUNITIES IN NATION--According to the report that the Directorate of Peasant and Native Communities of the General Directorate of Agrarian Reform has sent to the Senate, there are now 4,560 communities in Peru. Of these, 3,672 are recognized. They have a population of 4.3 million and an area of 19.5 million hectares. This immense wealth is removed from trade! It has been known for centuries in the Western world that land is the wealth of nations. The big powers are those that have known how to exploit their land to the maximum. They use technology, credit, and equipment to help those who lack ready cash. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p A-4] 7717

CSO: 3348/242

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

MITCHELL ON ST LUCIA VOTE--Kingstown, 9 Apr (CANA)--Prime Minister James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines has described Monday's election results in St Lucia as very surprising and said it was a setback to the regional integration movement. Mitchell said he and his colleagues had taken quite seriously Prime Minister John Compton's statements on the need for them to utilise their two-third's majorities in parliament to move towards a federation of the island states in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). He said the election result suggested that the St Lucian electorate did not take the issue of unification seriously or had voted in a manner to indicate that they did not care about it. You've got to have somebody to unite with and if the people in St Lucia don't want to unite with us its a big question. I am indeed disappointed, but the people of St Lucia know what they want to live with. It's a matter for them, Mitchell said, [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 9 Apr 87 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/192

COMMANDER CALLS TROOP REDUCTION 'SIGNIFICANT'

PY082108 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 31 Mar 87 p 6

[Text] Salto--General Guillermo de Nava [commander of the 3d Division] has said that the reduction of troops under his command is significant. He added that the Army's resumption of civilian-military activities is being carried out normally, and that all this is viewed with great satisfaction.

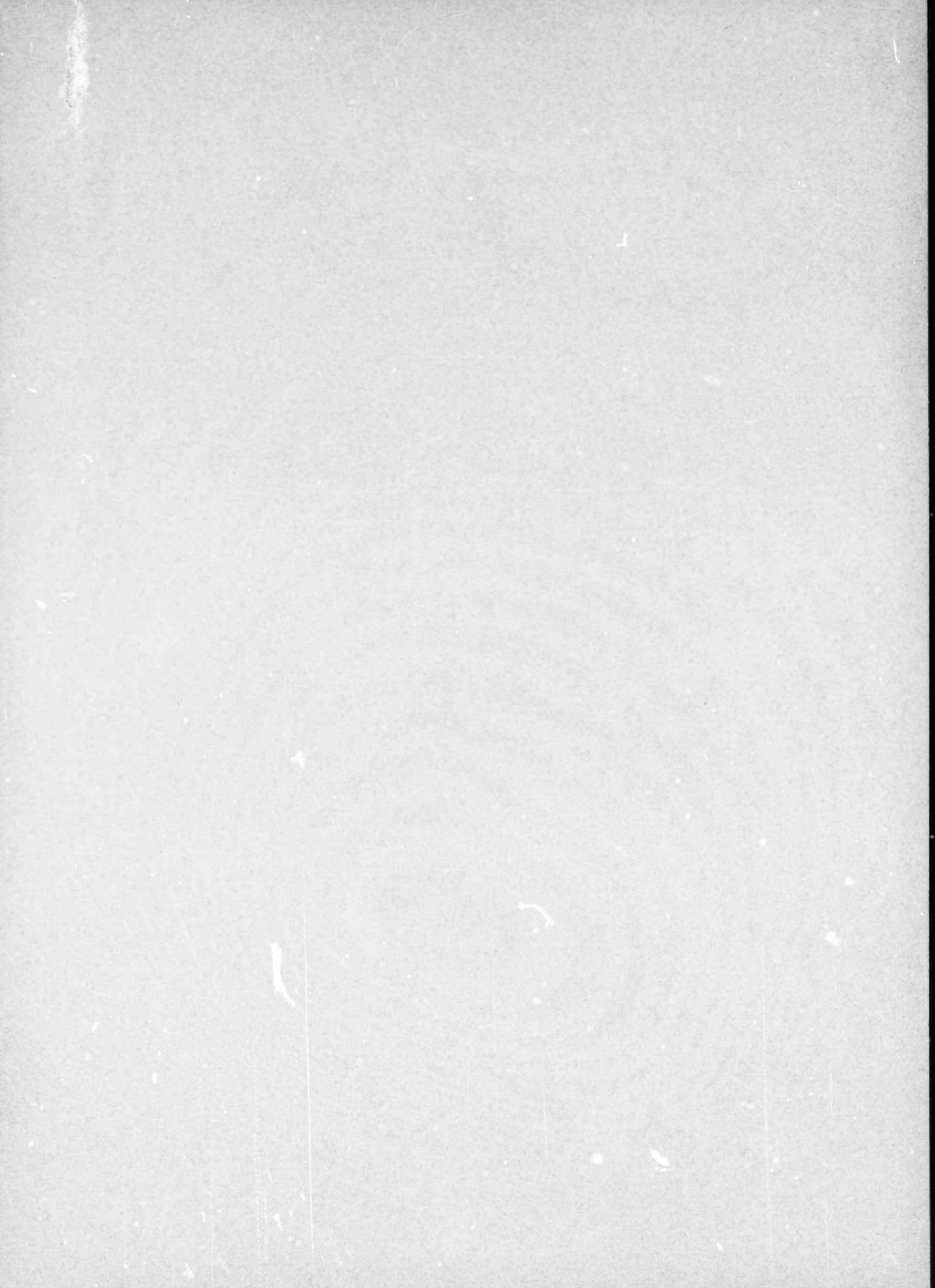
When asked whether the reduction of troops is being done efficiently in compliance with the national government's program, General de Nava said that "we have been discussing precisely that subject and although the reduction is still not noticeable in the Saltos units, it has been significant in the Paso de los Toros, Tacuarembó, and Caballería 5 garrisons." The commander also said that "to keep these reductions from becoming a traumatic experience, since there is a family behind every man, those posts which become vacant due to voluntary retirement, death, and other causes will not be filled thus complying with the reduction program. Therefore, the reduction of troops has begun to be noticeable. It should be pointed out that all military lyceums operating in the interior and other services of the Armed Forces are being closed down."

General de Nava announced that "the Army and his division continue their social projects in support of the institutions" noting that they aid schools with men and materials, and charity organizations with donations of masonry and paint, etc.

De Nava voiced his satisfaction over his term in office as chief of the military household "at such a difficult moment as the transition from one political situation to another." In this sense he noted "the stance maintained by the president of the Republic and his energetic program made it possible to overcome many difficulties."

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